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LD211239 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iraqi Raid—Iraqi warplanes raided a large maritime target off the Iranian coast the evening of 20 October, scoring an "accurate and effective" hit, an Iraqi spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Kuwait—A Kuwaiti Defense Ministry source cited by KUNA confirmed that a number of shells fell "at random on the northern borders of the country" 20 October, but he added that this was apparently the result of an exchange of fire between Iraq and Iran. The shells caused no injuries or damage, he noted.

Kuwait's diplomatic position on the Gulf conflict was given strong support in a Saudi official statement carried by SPA. A Saudi source expressed the Kingdom's "complete support" for Kuwait's official statement on the U.S. action against Iranian oil platforms and on the need for international action to speed up implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. The Bahraini prime minister made a brief visit to Kuwait during which he expressed Bahrain's "total solidarity and support against any threats," KUNA reported. Syria has also expressed clear support for Kuwait and any Arab state subjected to aggression, according to "highly placed Syrian sources" cited by London's *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* 18 October. The sources added that Syria would express this position during Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's visit to Damascus.

Iranian Policy—The "full-fledged war initiated by the United States" will bring forth a "decisive and crushing riposte" from Islamic Iran, Tehran radio contended in a 21 October commentary. Earlier, in an interview cited by IRNA following his departure from Damascus, Prime Minister Musavi indicated that Iran has rejected a U.S. message expressing willingness to halt attacks on Iran if the latter does not retaliate for the 19 October attack on Iranian oil platforms. Noting that the U.S. message was sent "through Syria," Musavi said Iran's response was that "we will not let any blow go unanswered, compromise is impossible and we will retaliate." Musavi also gave an interview to Tehran radio in which he said the United States "desperately needs to prove that it was the one that delivered the final blow in order to tell the world it has crushed Iran." However, Iran will not make the slightest concession to the Americans and will deliver the "necessary answer" to them, he said. As for the results of his visit to Syria, Musavi remarked that the talks on the Gulf and other regional issues were "extremely important and useful." Iran has developed an "extensive bond" with Syria, he added, and the talks with Syrian leaders resulted in "closer ties and greater coordination relating to the region's pivotal issues."

U.S., Soviet Diplomacy

Reporting on Richard Murphy's "surprise visit" to Israel 21 October, IDF radio said the assistant secretary of state had come to brief the Israelis on Secretary of State George Shultz' talks with Arab leaders, particularly on Jordanian King Husayn's reaction to the "new formula" for direct talks with the limited accompaniment of the two superpowers.

King Husayn's talks with Shultz in London were reported by Amman television, which noted that the king discussed the possibilities of convening an international peace conference during a separate meeting with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov. The talks with Vorontsov also covered the Gulf conflict and "problems of interest to both sides," the television said, and Husayn accepted an invitation to visit the USSR before the end of this year.

Lebanon

Husayn al-Husayni was reelected speaker of the Chamber of Deputies by 51 votes, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, adding that Albert Mukhaybir was reelected deputy speaker. Husayni's reelection was backed by Syria, which was instrumental in securing the withdrawal of a rival candidate, according to an earlier report by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

In a speech to the Chamber broadcast by Beirut radio, Al-Husayni listed the "major elements of internal reconciliation" on which he said there is agreement between the different communities. Among other things, he referred to the "unanimity" on the need to "stabilize" the presidency, fill vacant parliamentary seats, apply the rule of "equal representation" of Muslims and Christians, and formulate a new election law. On the role of religion, Al-Husayni was applauded when he expressed the view that no reasonable person would want to impose a special creed on the Lebanese state.

Syria

Al-Asad in Bulgaria—President Hafiz al-Asad held talks in Sofia with Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov on convening an international conference on the Middle East as well as on prospects for mutual economic cooperation, Sofia radio reported.

Spanish Sentence—A Syrian citizen belonging to the Abu Musa wing of Fatah was sentenced by a Spanish court to 47 years imprisonment for an attack on the Israeli airlines desk at Madrid's Barajas airport in 1986, AFP reported.

Sudan

The SPLA's clandestine radio broadcast a statement denying the Khartoum authorities' account of the 14 October SPLA ambush of government troop trains in

Bahr al-Ghazal Province. While dismissing the government's contention that 4,000 SPLA soldiers took part, the SPLA statement claimed that 153 Sudanese Army soldiers were killed in the attack and 200 were wounded, adding that the "besieged remnants" in the remaining two trains are advised to surrender.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns U.S. Move Against PLO

LD202246 Kuwait KUNA in English 0839 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] United Nations, Oct 20 (KUNA)—The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) condemned the U.S. Senate recent attempt to make unlawful the establishment of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) permanent observer mission to the United Nations.

In a communique issued yesterday following their meeting, the OIC members said this attempt denies the Palestinian people the right to defend their cause in international fora and obstructs their search for a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Noting that the PLO mission in New York was in accordance with the Headquarters agreement between the United States as host country and the United Nations, the OIC members said the move was a "flagrant violation of the norms of international law and the rights of the U.N. invitees, such as the PLO."

They called upon Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to take the necessary measures in order to declare the U.N. position and to ensure respect by the host country of the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement.

In this regard, the members requested Muhammad Abu al-Hasan of Kuwait, Kuwait being chairman of the OIC, to convey their concern to Perez de Cuellar and to Peter Florin, the president of the current session of the U.N. General Assembly.

They said it was unfortunate that this move came at a time when the entire international community was calling for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, under U.N. auspices, to settle the Palestinian question.

The non-aligned countries also protested the U.S. move in a communique adopted last Friday.

In a related matter, Libya's envoy 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, as current chairman of the Arab group told Perez de Cuellar in a letter distributed yesterday that the Arab group will take all necessary steps within the framework of the U.N. system to stop the U.S. move.

The Arab group also requested Perez de Cuellar to approach the parties concerned and to avoid the "unfortunate" consequences which might result from such a situation.

A delegation grouping Al-Turayki, as Arab group chairman, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, as OIC chairman, Clovis Maksoud, Arab League envoy and Zehdi Labib Terzi, PLO's permanent observer discussed the matter with Perez de Cuellar last Thursday.

Palestinian Affairs

Communiques Detail Anti-Israeli Bombings

JN201725 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Oct 87

["Text" of two military communiques issued by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] First: Pursuant to instructions, our heroes from the popular uprising martyrs group have overcome all the enemy's security measures in occupied Jerusalem to quell the popular uprising. They planted a timed explosive charge inside a station for military vehicles in the Damascus Gate area of occupied Jerusalem. After planting the charges, our group returned safely to its base.

At 0600 on 18 October 1987, the explosive charge went off, destroying several military vehicles and wounding one of the station's guards. Immediately after the explosion, the Zionist security and police forces besieged and combed the area of the operation in search of other explosive charges. They also took tight security measures around establishments and certain centers in the holy city for fear there might be other explosives.

Second: Our revolutionaries from the martyr Huda Sha'lan group operating inside the occupied homeland launched an incendiary bomb attack against an enemy military bus as it passed near the city of Bi'r Zayt carrying scores of enemy soldiers at 1915 on 18 October 1987. One of the bombs inside the bus exploded and started a fire, destroying the contents of the bus and wounding an unknown number of enemy soldiers.

Immediately after the operation, the Zionist security forces besieged the area, searched it, and pursued the group. But their attempts were doomed to failure. The heroes of the group returned safely to base. Revolution until victory.

Algeria

Cuban Party Official Views Political Training

LD190426 Algiers APS in English 1033 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Algiers, October 18 (APS)—Abderrezak Bouhara, member of the FLN Party CC Permanent Secretariat in charge of external relations conferred Saturday here with Raul Valdes Vivo, member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, rector of the higher school of the party who is in our country at the invitation of the FLN party. On this occasion, the two sides exchanged views on Algerian and Cuban experiences in the field of political and ideological training and dealt with prospects of friendship relations between the FLN party and the Cuban Communist Party.

Meets With Messaadia

LD202323 Algiers APS in English 1305 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Algiers, October 20 (APS)—Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Political Bureau member, head of the CC Perm nent Secretariat audienced yesterday here Raul Valdes Vivo, CC member of the Cuban Communist Party, head of the high school of the party in a visit at the present time in Algeria at the invitation of the National Liberation Front party.

They examined relations between the Cuban Communist Party and the FLN party as well as cooperation prospects. They reviewed aspects linked to the experience of the two parties on the organizational, political, and economic plans.

SWAPO's Nujoma Arrives, Makes Statement

LD191625 Algiers APS in English 1056 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Algiers, 19/10/87 (APS)—"The fall of the Botha regime is impending and the repressing policy pursued by this regime is further evidence that it finds itself in a bog. The situation has reached a critical point", SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] President, Sam Nujoma declared shortly after his arrival in Algiers where he was hailed by Sadek Zouaten, member of the CC Permanent Secretariat in charge of the Council of Friendship and Solidarity Between Peoples. "The long resistance of the Namibian people has gone through all the stages of maturation, has made considerable progress which enable it to cope with the manoeuvres of the Pretoria regime", Nujoma said. The collapse of the non-representative assembly and of the so-called Council of Ministers in 1979 is the outcome of the Namibian people's struggle, SWAPO president indicated before recalling that in 1985 Botha attempted to remedy the situation through new manoeuvres like the June 1985 resolution which once again imposed upon the Namibian people an impopular and puppet regime the so-called interim regime by which Pretoria wanted to bring an end to the struggle of the Namibian people.

"Our people is facing barbarian and inhuman practices. The reality in Namibia is made of destroyed schools, tortured children and brutal practices and crimes which strike a blow to human dignity", Nujoma said.

Speaking about the clamp down on the media Nujoma said it is part of Pretoria's policy." [quotation mark as received] Journalists are watched closely. They cannot leave the territory before a meticulous enquiry by the police, it does not shy from resorting to forces in same cases, SWAPO president concluded.

Meets With Messaadia

LD202318 Algiers APS in English 1300 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Algiers, October 20 (APS)—Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Political Bureau member, head of the CC Permanent Secretariat examined with Sam Nujoma, SWAPO president prospects of the Namibian people's struggle, notably in the present international conjuncture marked by the escalation of racism, Zionism and imperialism.

Talks were centered on relations between the FLN party and the SWAPO. After having paid tribute to the Algerian liberation struggle Sam Nujoma expressed on behalf of his organization all the consideration and deep respect for Algeria's efforts vis-a-vis just causes in the world.

Egypt

UAE Oil Minister Meets With Mubarak 20 Oct

NC202149 Cairo MENA in English 2030 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo Oct 20 (MENA)—UAE Oil Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah tonight following a meeting with President Husni Mubarak said that he conveyed to him a verbal message from President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Dr. al-'Utaybah praised Egypt's role in maintaining the interests of the Arab nation and underscored its substantial role in all spheres and issues of interest to the Arab world and the region as a whole.

On the Gulf situation, he said it is critical and sensitive, pointing out that his country has been calling for the necessity of ending the war between Iraq and Iran.

He underscored President Mubarak's interest in oil issues and other cases, and said there is cooperation and coordination between the two countries in oil fields.

'Abd al-Majid People's Assembly Statement

NC201432 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has once again asserted that peace is a central factor in

Egypt's foreign policy and is closely linked with the achievement of national goals of stability and development. In a statement delivered today before a joint meeting of the Arab Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and National Security Committees of the People's Assembly, presided over by Dr Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, chairman of the Arab Affairs Committee, Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that peace means full commitment to the goals and principles outlined in the basic Charter of the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd al-Majid's statement is as follows:

Dr Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, chairman of the Arab Affairs Committee; Dr Kamal Henry Abadir, chairman of the Defense and National Security Committee; Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee; honorable members of the committees: I am pleased to have the opportunity to respond to your invitation and deliver a statement before your esteemed committees on Egypt's foreign policy, with particular reference to the Arab world. I am honored to put before you, representatives of the people in the specialized committees of the People's Assembly, the most important constants of Egypt's foreign policy in general and the most important determining factors of Egyptian action in the Arab arena in particular.

I will single out the most outstanding current issues in the Arab world; namely, the Palestinian issue, the crux of the Middle East question and of the Arab-Israeli conflict, then the Gulf war and the danger it poses to the eastern part of the Arab world, and finally the Lebanese problem. I will also examine the effects of foreign interference in the affairs of others and the resulting negative effects on the course of events in the region. At the end of my statement, I will answer any questions the honorable members may have.

In his comprehensive speech before the People's Assembly on 12 October, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak defined the objectives and courses of national action in the forthcoming stage under three main headings: democratic construction, economic construction, and sound foreign relations serving our national goals.

In his analysis of foreign policy, the president described a wise policy as one that places Egypt's interests to the fore and above any other consideration and builds bridges of cooperation with all countries that prove their readiness to work with us honestly and sincerely, without infringing on our freedom or attempting to interfere in our affairs. His excellency the president pointed out our adherence to a just and permanent peace for us, for our brothers, and for all countries.

He stressed that we will direct our efforts in the outside world to the service of our goals of economic and social development, which are the basic fulcrums of the program for development and for ensuring vital national interests. He noted our commitment to a balanced foreign policy that will serve the supreme national and strategic goals and pay no attention to trivialities. He focused on strengthening solidarity among the countries of the world, primarily the Arab, African, Islamic, and nonaligned countries.

Members of the People's Assembly's Arab Affairs Committee, we at the Foreign Ministry have come to see our role within activities on the national level at this stage as taking place on three major fronts; namely, working to achieve peace, stability, and development.

The peace we seek is for us, for those around us, and for our entire world. Peace is a strategic line in Egyptian foreign policy. It is very closely linked to the achievement of the national objectives of stability and development. I even believe that is the principal key for both of them. The peace I am referring to—as I explained in Egypt's address to the UN General Assembly on 29 September—means a full commitment to the aims and principles of the UN Charter. Egypt had the honor of helping to formulate this Charter after World War II.

It is a peace that establishes relations among states and peoples on the basis of mutual respect, equality of rights, sovereignty, and respect for the rules of international law. It is a peace that does not accept the notion of the permissibility of seizing territories through war. It is a peace for all and it is indivisible. It understands that the continued production of nuclear weapons, weapons of complete destruction, and the increase in the rate of arms constitute a grave danger to the future of humanity, squander resources and potentials, and impede opportunities for progress and even opportunities for the continuation of life itself.

Egypt has urged those countries that have not signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty to do so. We have expressed our hope that the Mediterranean Sea will become a nuclear-free zone and that the Middle East region and Africa will also be declared nuclear-free zones.

Turning now from generalities to specifics, and here I mean our Arab region, I have explained before the largest political gathering in the world that peace cannot be established and cannot be stable as long as the Palestinian people are deprived of their national legitimate rights. Foremost among these rights is their right to self-determination over their homeland's soil. I will speak on this in more detail when I come to Egypt's Arab policy.

In Egypt's address to the General Assembly, I explained an issue linked to the issues of peace; namely, the new danger which is threatening the issue of peace and, hence, the issues of stability and development. This is the danger of terrorism which uses violence as a means and an end, rejects plurality of views, and closes the door to free dialogue and constructive coexistence. With

regard to stability, this national objective follows logically from the talk about peace, both on international and regional levels. There can be no stability in a world or region which lacks a just peace established on the bases of international law. Nor can there be peace in a world or region whose resources are being exhausted in the production of full-scale weapons of destruction or through which waves of terrorism and violence are sweeping. Furthermore, there can be no progress in the democratic structure and no implementation of socio-economic programs in a world or region that does not enjoy stability. Stability is imperative and has security, economic, and social dimensions, as well as international ones.

Perhaps Egypt's effective participation in the activities of the Group of 77—the economic arm of the Non-aligned Movement—qualifies us to speak about the need for a new and sound relationship between the rich and the less fortunate. Such a relationship would bring stability to the international economic system and achieve needed development for Third World countries.

If peace is a precondition for stability, I believe both stability and peace are preconditions for achieving socio-economic development. In Egypt we have reached a consensus, making development our primary national effort to fulfill the needs of the present generation. This will be a trust in our hands for the next generation. We have a duty toward this generation, passing on to them the responsibility for a stronger Egypt. Within this context, I refer to President Mubarak's speech before the People's Assembly marking the beginning of his second term. He spoke of making efforts in the foreign arena to serve development goals.

His excellency stated that improvement of economic conditions is an urgent necessity, without which political independence cannot be complete nor cultural independence prosper. The president talked about efforts on the economic level, whether to obtain aid from friendly countries or to attract foreign parties to cooperate with us in modernizing production means or introducing new technology.

We in the Foreign Ministry realize our role within the framework of the general development plan in the country. We view the patronage of millions of expatriate Egyptians and the strengthening of their ties with their motherland as one of our most important duties. They are sons of Egypt and a great and continuous source of expertise, manpower, and economic potential. These Egyptians enjoy all citizenship rights and I believe that in their patriotism they appreciate their national obligations, which are logically in full harmony with their personal interests and legitimate aspirations.

Perhaps it is only natural that I should discuss before the Arab Affairs Committee Egypt's Arab role and its outspoken position toward one of the most important and urgent issues, the Palestinian issue, and attempts to reach a just and comprehensive solution through an international peace conference, as well as the explosive military conflict in the Gulf area. This conflict truly threatens a number of Arab states directly and harms our region as a whole. It is also natural for me to discuss the situation in Lebanon, whose problems are interwoven with the Middle East and Gulf issues.

Perhaps you will agree that the foreign policy of any state is one of that state's main instruments for serving and achieving its national security. Since Egyptian national security is an indivisible part of Arab national security, influencing it and being influenced by it, the Arab dimension of Egyptian foreign policy, without doubt, is at the top of this policy's priority list.

The dark period in contemporary Arab history in which some have tried to cast doubt about Egypt's Arab role, prompted by short-term personal interests, has ended. I state before you that my participation in the 42d UN General Assembly session in September has firmly confirmed my belief in this.

In New York I met with all Arab foreign ministers who attended the General Assembly session—except those of Syria and Libya. I saw clearly that the Arab brothers throughout the Arab world, from the Gulf to the ocean, realize that Egypt's pan-Arab role has risen above any one-upmanship.

Mr Chairman, members of the Arab Affairs Committee, the political and cultural facts of history and geography and our civilization, language, and faith stand firmly above any one-upmanship or the personal interests of one party or another at one time or another. The lessons of the recent past are still in everyone's minds. Everyone knows how far our Arab world retreated in regional and international arenas when Egypt lost the 1967 war.

Everyone also knows the results of the splendid and heroic performance of our Armed Forces in 1973, opening the way for regaining the land and for finding ways to achieve a just and lasting solution to the problems of the region and contributing to Arab strength, clout, and respect. Allow me to state before you that only what is right is right and that any policy aimed at casting doubt about Egypt's Arab role is essentially devoid of logic to the point that it can greatly harm the interests of our Arab nation and is doomed to fail.

The president has defined our concept of our Arab role in a number of points which I will summarize:

1. To achieve a common Arab concept of supreme Arab goals and to draw up an integrated strategy to confront the dangers facing our Arab world;

2. To maintain the independence of Arab will and to work to provide freedom for Arab decisionmaking;

3. To underline the need for every state to respect its commitment to the basic pacts governing Arab activity, especially the Arab League Charter and the Joint Arab Defense Pact;

4. To uphold the principle of mutual respect and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries;

5. To develop a strategy for dealing with non-Arab countries in the region without resorting to claims of racial superiority or regional expansion;

6. To entrench Arab solidarity and settle existing disputes peacefully; and

7. To ration Arab resources and use them well in the Arab peoples' interests, achieve development, absorb modern technology, and strengthen commercial and cultural exchanges and economic cooperation among Arab countries.

Egypt and the Palestinian issue: I believe we agree that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Reaching a just and honorable solution to this problem, in accordance with the rules of international law and international norms, would thus lead to a permanent solution for the Middle East problem. Egypt has a firm, frank, and clear policy on this pivotal issue. We speak in one language, regardless of the interlocutor. Our principles are firm and the same, whether expressed behind closed doors or in the open. We address the big powers and the countries concerned with peace in the Middle East with the same intellectual and scientifically straight line with which we address our brothers in the PLO, the people of the occupied territories, the Arab countries, or Israel. Our firm stand can be summed up as follows:

1. Peace will not be lasting so long as the Palestinian people are deprived of exercising their national legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination;

2. The Palestinian people have rejected and continue to reject the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, despite the passage of 20 years;

3. Just as gaining territories by force is impermissible, the policy of keeping them by force, despite the will of the Palestinian people, might bring about a temporary fait accompli, but it will not solve the present problem and will heighten the danger in the future; and

4. Israel cannot get both peace and land. It must realize that its security cannot be achieved at the expense of the security and future or even at the expense of the basic legitimate rights of others.

Mr Chairman, members of the Arab Affairs Committee, our diplomacy is based on the principle of maintaining the necessary impetus to reach a just and honorable solution for the Palestinian problem. Even though international interests are diverted by various international and regional issues—which sometimes seem more urgent, such as the Gulf war—Egypt's firm position is to give clear priority to this pivotal problem. It was prominent in my meetings with the U.S. President, the vice president, the secretary of state, the President's national security adviser, Congressmen, intellectuals, and correspondents during my visit to Washington in September, when I carried a message from President Mubarak to President Reagan.

It was also the focus of my meetings with the foreign ministers of 42 countries while I was in New York, including the foreign ministers of the 5 major powers and all concerned parties. You might have noticed that in the past few days Cairo was visited by the Soviet first deputy foreign minister and by the U.S. secretary of state.

All these are signs along the path of a just peace process, following the success of Egyptian diplomacy under President Mubarak's leadership and through a constant and persistent effort to convince the world there is no alternative to an international peace conference, held in accordance with the principles already noted.

Proceeding from the intrinsic relationship linking Egypt with its Arab nation, it has become established in the conscience of the Egyptian people that their national security is linked with that of their Arab nation. It is obvious to everyone that the security of the Arab world's eastern wing, particularly that of Gulf countries, is now in open confrontation with a direct danger posed, regrettably, by a neighboring Islamic country which adopts aggressive policies under the guise of Islamic slogans, which have nothing to do with Islam.

Islam's mission, to which Egypt and its people belong, is one of justice, tolerance, and a call for righteousness and good. Islam's teachings are free from the sacrilegious actions that took place during the pilgrimage season and from aggression against the sovereignty of others, as is happening in the Gulf.

Egypt supported Security Council Resolution 598, which was released on 20 July and was unanimously adopted. This resolution is fair and balanced, represents the outcome of international experience, and is consistent with UN goals and principles and with the rules and norms of international law. Egypt calls for an immediate cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, withdrawal of military forces to international borders, exchange of prisoners of war, and the formation of an international committee to determine who started the war and another committee to study the possibilities of rebuilding what this unjustifiable war has destroyed.

Egypt backs the freedom and safety of international navigation. A dear part of our Arab homeland is being exposed to a real and destructive danger, a matter that

infringes upon our national interests, as President Mubarak's speech to your honorable Assembly stated. Let me tell you that Egypt's diplomacy will spare no effort if the Arab countries seek a formula dictated by wisdom for their relations with non-Arab countries in the region, a formula that rejects racism, racial discrimination, and sectarianism and calls for expansion, domination, and hegemony.

I cannot conclude my statement on the most urgent issues in our Arab world without touching on the tragedy that our Lebanese brothers have been suffering for 12 years. Once-prosperous Lebanon has turned into a total human tragedy and a hotbed of tension that torments the consciences of honest men. We have repeatedly called on others to take their hands off Lebanon and leave Lebanon to its people to find their honest national interests and restore peace and security.

This fraternal country has suffered from effects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and it is still suffering from policies and actions that do not stem from our Arab region, disregard our interests and security, and exacerbate divisions and disarray among the Lebanese people, almost taking Lebanon to the edge of an abyss. An effective solution to the Lebanese problem lies in ridding Lebanon and its people of foreign interference and pressure. Should this be achieved, as we hope and is our declared policy, our Arab people in Lebanon will prove their outstanding capabilities in healing their wounds and rebuilding their country.

Mr Chairman and members of the Arab Affairs Committee, my talk to you today and the ensuing debates are the practical expression of a sound relationship between the executive and legislative authorities in a country that has maintained a pace on the road of democracy unprecedented in either our Arab world or in the Third World. President Mubarak has placed the responsibility for building democracy at the head of future priorities of the national agenda.

Egypt, in the past few years, has achieved progress on the road to democracy, attracting the attention and admiration of all. Opposing counter opinions has become a part of the legitimate process of decisionmaking. It is an established concept that the majority and the opposition are integral parts in a political system which appreciates the honor of the world and freedom of expression and thought. In this system everyone is adhering to the Egyptian higher national interest, which the Egyptian views as paramount.

In my address to the UN General Assembly, I said: The Egyptian political situation has become reliant on a multiplicity of views and on freedom of political and cultural expression in conformity with the Constitution and law where the ruler and the governed are equal. I would like to tell you that this very paragraph received utmost interest from the delegations present. Furthermore, these delegations predicted that this pioneer experiment will undoubtedly expand in our area within the next decade and will become an example for the rest of the developing countries. We appreciate highly this assessment in light of your established bases for our democratic experience. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

'Abd al-Majid Receives Report on Tabah Dispute

NC201322 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a report today from Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, head of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, on the Tabah Arbitration Panel's recent meeting in Geneva. Ambassador Ahmad Mahir had attended that meeting, during which Egypt and Israel presented memoranda for the second time on the border problems in Tabah and thirteen other disputed areas.

MENA has learned that Dr 'Abd al-Majid will head a meeting of the Egyptian National Committee on Tabah within the next few days. The committee will discuss the Israeli memorandum and begin preparing a third Egyptian memorandum, which will be submitted to the arbitration panel at its next meeting in Geneva in February.

MENA has also learned that Israel's second memorandum, which was submitted in Geneva this month, did not contain any new material. According to MENA, the memorandum was described by certain legal sources in Geneva as a naked attempt to twist the facts in the absence of legal, historical, and geographical evidence. On the other hand, the same sources said that the Egyptian memorandum was cohesive and well-substantiated with evidence.

Ambassador Ahmad Mahir denied the news that a 3-man negotiating committee on Tabah has been formed. A team of three judges, from Egypt, Israel, and a neutral country, were set up by the arbitral compromis document to investigate the prospects of a settlement. This team, Ambassador Mahir said, has begun its work, which, however, should not be seen as a new development. The ambassador said that Egypt is insisting on its stand. He added that Egypt is not conceding any of its rights nor is it prepared to compromise its sovereignty. Egypt, Ambassador Mahir pointed out, is fully abiding by the arbitral compromis arrangements concerning the arbitration panel and the 3-man team.

MENA has learned that the arbitration panel will visit the area in the second half of February 1988. Hearings on the case will begin at the end of February, with the panel expected to return its ruling in the summer of 1988.

USSR Ambassador Visits High Dam, Praises Ties

NC210844 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Aswan, 21 Oct (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has praised the improving and flourishing relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. The Soviet ambassador, who is currently paying a visit to Aswan Governorate, disclosed that during his talks with Aswan officials, both sides had discussed a possible Soviet contribution to a number of development projects in both Aswan and Abu Sunbul.

Zhuravlev also commended the efforts being invested in High Dam maintenance work, carried out under the full supervision of Egyptian engineers. He pointed out that the Egyptian-Soviet agreement for the supply of equipment, spare parts, and turbines is still valid. In this connection, he asserted that the Soviet Union is completely ready to respond to Egypt's demands in this field. During his visit to Aswan, the Soviet ambassador met with Aswan Governor Major General Qadri 'Uthman. He also paid a visit to tourist and archaeological sites in Aswan and Abu Sunbul.

Kuwaiti Central Bank Governor Visits Cairo

NC202142 Cairo MENA in English 2037 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct 20 (MENA)—Visiting Kuwaiti Central Bank Governor Shaykh Salim 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sabah, speaking here tonight following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak, said he conveyed to the president greetings from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, emir of Kuwait, and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister. He said his meeting with the president covered a review of ongoing developments in the region and bilateral relations in fields of interest to the two countries.

He said Kuwait's ties with the sister country of Egypt are old and established firmly. On economic relations between the two countries, he said an economic feasibility study of several joint ventures is now being conducted. He expressed hope that investment ties would increase in future.

Papers Warn Iran Against 'Retaliatory Action'

NC210501 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—The *Al-Akhbar* and *Al-Ahram* newspapers warn Iran against embarking on any retaliatory action in response to the limited U.S. military operations against it, lest the tit-for-tat actions in the Arab Gulf lead to grave consequences and the situation reaches the point of no return.

In their editorials appearing in their Wednesday editions, the newspapers stress that Iran is primarily responsible for the current situation in the Gulf thanks to the behavior of its leaders and to its repeated attacks on commercial shipping in the Gulf.

In its editorial, *Al-Ahram* notes that Iran has fallen willingly into a carefully set-up trap that has given the U.S. military force the excuse to unleash its power and to adopt a stand of positive defense, which entails the right to deal retaliatory and even preemptive strikes against Iran. Regardless of what has been said about the U.S. military intervention in the Gulf, namely, that it is the main factor behind the provocations and harassments taking place there, the fact remains that Iran has unjustifiably attacked a Kuwaiti tanker carrying the U.S. flag in Kuwaiti territorial waters and not in the open sea. In the beginning, U.S. intervention had been confined to the open sea to protect international passageways.

Al-Ahram adds: Iran's decision to attack the tanker was not based on a careful study of the situation. Rather, the extremists in Iran slipped into this trap which they found too hard to resist. Undoubtedly, international politics has played a behind-the-scenes role in luring these Iranian extremists and exploiting their enthusiasm to draw them to a killing ground.

Al-Ahram notes that, in the eyes of the Iranian leaders, Kuwait's sovereignty is undermined as a result of the attacks on these tankers in Kuwaiti territorial waters. It also weakens the prestige of the United States which boasts that it can deter Iran at any time. Moreover, it shows the Iranian public that Iran is exploting its occupation of Al-Faw. The action is also a reminder of Iran's power and its ability to extend its influence over every citizen who must pay allegience to the rule of the ayatollahs. It further shows that Iran can obtain the most modern weapons and use them to achieve its aims and objectives.

Al-Akbar says that recent developments in the Gulf presage other events that could further exacerbate the situation. This is especially true if the Iranian leadership were to attempt to carry out some of its public threats against U.S. interests to save face before its people and the small states which it is trying to blackmail. The newspaper does not rule out that Iran might embark on a reckless action to achieve false heroism without caring about the consequences. The Tehran rulers have already threatened to carry out retaliatory blows against the United States.

The paper calls on the international community to take quick and decisive steps to contain the volatile situation before it reaches the point of no return.

Libya

West's Support for U.S. 'Aggression' Scored

LD202134 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli—Britain has said that the United States had every right to attack the [Iranian] oil platform in

light of the imminent threat of increasing Iranian attacks against shipping.

The British Foreign Ministry has stated that Iran is guilty of a blatant violation of international law.

JANA's international affairs editor comments that what was stated by the British Foreign Ministry reflects NATO's arrogance, its contempt for people's destiny, its encroachment on people's minds, its turning of facts upside down, and its deceit and media disinformation.

The French Government has for its part also supported the U.S. aggression. Republican Senator Richard Lugar, member of the Senate Committee for Foreign Relations, has affirmed that the U.S. aggression against Iran was coordinated with the United States' Western allies.

The United States is the one that is threatening peace, warning about the destruction of the world, carrying out aggression, and appropriating other people's territory. It is guilty of violating the right of the world's peoples and is a persistent violator of international law, the existence of which is no longer felt by anyone due to continued U.S. encroachment and impudence.

The editor adds: It is not surprising for the United States to behave with such foolishness and to create a rumpus in such a manner in the world. This is the nature of imperialism and these are its traditions. But it is surprising to see other countries in the world—countries that claim they are civilized and advanced—cheering for and applauding this aggression, as well as defending and justifying it. These are quite clearly new Crusade-like advances against the East being led by the United States and supported by the West. Regrettably, we see those who are naive and those who have declared their submission. Will those who are asleep ever wake up? Will those who are unaware ever realize this before it is too late?

UN Envoy on U.S. 'Terrorist Action'

LD202210 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] New York, 20 Oct (JANA)—Dr 'Ali al-Turayki, the Great Jamahiriyah's permanent representative to the United Nations, has stressed that the U.S. aggression against Iran is considered to be a grave violation of all international traditions and laws.

In a statement to the U.S. CBS and NBC radio stations relayed today from New York, he said that that action will contribute to escalating the situation in the region.

He pointed out that the U.S. terrorist action confirms that the United States does not respect any international organization or institution and does not appreciate or cooperate with efforts to find a solution to the Iraq-Iran war.

Economic Protocol With YAR Signed 19 Oct

LD201445 Tripoli JANA in English 1726 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, October 19, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—This morning, "Muhammad Lutfi Farhat" the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning and "Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih" the minister of economy, trade and provision in North Yemen signed a meeting protocol of the Libyan Arab-Yemeni joint committee in Tripoli.

The protocol included the laying of foundations for joint cooperation in the economic, social, housing, planning, educational and transport fields in a way that satisfy the aspirations of the Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyah and North Yemen.

Agreement was reached on setting the date for the convening of the meetings of the General People's Committee in Great Jamahiriyah and the Council of Ministers in North Yemen during the first half meeting of the joint preparatory joint committee at the beginning of next December month in Tripoli.

The member of the permanent committee of the General People's Congress the minister of economy, trade and provision in North Yemen, in a short address after the signing of the protocol, stressed the importance of consolidating the basis of cooperation amongst the sons of the one Arab people, confirming that North Yemen will do all it can to implement the articles of the protocol to accomplish what the Arab people aspires in both North Yemen and Great Jamahiriyah.

YAR Minister Departs

LD202231 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, member of the Permament Secretariat of the YAR General People's Congress and the YAR minister of economy, supply, and trade, departed Tripoli yesterday evening with his accompanying delegation.

In a statement to JANA prior to his departure, the brother minister stressed that meetings of the joint Libyan Arab-Yemeni commission were successful in promoting cooperation between the sons of the Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and North Yemen. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Taya Receives French Presidential Adviser

AB202007 Paris AFP in French 1743 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 20 Oct (AFP)—It has been learned from official sources in Nouakchott that the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, received Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, adviser to

the French president on African affairs, this afternoon. The two men discussed bilateral cooperation, as well as African and European issues. Today, Mr Mitterrand also visited the Nouakchott satellite station, which was built with French assistance, and the Mauritanian television station.

Iraqi Presidential Envoy Arrives To See Taya

LD202352 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Mr Hasan 'Ali, member of the Iraqi RCC and special envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, arrived in Nouakchott this evening. [passage omitted]

In the VIP Hall, the Iraqi RCC member issued the following statement:

[Begin Hasan 'Ali recording] First of all, I am pleased to be visiting my second home, Mauritania. I am proud of this visit because it is my first and I am visiting this fraternal country as an envoy of President Saddam Husayn to his brother Maaouya, the Mauritanian head of state. My visit comes within the framework of consolidating cooperative relations between the two fraternal countries. [end recording]

This statement was made by the Iraqi envoy on arrival at Nouakchott airport this evening.

Morocco

Jordanian Prime Minister Arrives Oct 18

LD181724 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived a short while ago in Fes. Here is a report from our radio correspondent there:

Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Fes at noon today carrying an invitation for King Hassan II to attend the extraordinary Arab summit conference. The invitation was extended by his brother, King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

With regard to his mission to Morocco, the Jordanian prime minister said:

[Begin Rifa'i recording] My lord, King Husayn, has asked me to visit his brother King Hassan II to convey to his majesty a message containing an official invitation to the extraordinary Arab summit conference which will be held in Amman on 8 November. King Husayn feels that an invitation to King Hassan II is a formality because as far as Jordan is concerned King Hassan II is the one issuing an invitation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Meets King Hassan II; Departs

LD182121 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Excerpts] King Hassan II received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at the royal palace in Fes this afternoon. The Jordanian official conveyed a personal message from King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The audience was attended by Abdellatif Filali, foreign minister; Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs; and Ahmed Reda Guedira, adviser to the king. [passage omitted]

A few minutes ago, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i left Fes for his country after conveying a personal message to King Hassan II from his brother King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Sudan

African Parties on Government Participation

JN201206 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Oct (SUNA)—The Sudanese African parties have announced they will not participate in the government unless they take part in drawing up a unified charter with the two ruling parties, the Al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party, as well as the other political groups currently participating in the government.

This came in a statement issued on 18 October by Father Philip Ghabbush, leader of the African parties, and published in today's issue of *Al-Maydan*. Ghabbush said the African parties possess good faith regarding participation in the government and the drawing up of a unified program to be agreed upon by all sides and then implemented by the government. The statement pointed out that the African parties have a unified charter that contains integrated ideas and concepts that will be followed in their negotiations with leaderships of the two major parties and other parties.

Southerners To Participate in New Government

JN191127 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Oct (SUNA)—The newspaper *Al-Jaridah*, issued here this morning, said that the southern parties have agreed to participate in the new government according to the charter signed by the two coalition parties and the memorandum of understanding concluded by the two parties with the southern parties.

The committee entrusted by the two coalition parties to hold consultations with the southern parties on the manner in which the southern parties will participate in

the government held a meeting yesterday and agreed that the southern Al-Ummah and the Democratic Unionist Parties will participate in the new government. [sentence as received]

Announcement of New Government Postponed
JN201212 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Oct (SUNA)— The two ruling coalition parties discussed the country's political, economic, and security situation in their meeting yesterday.

The new government's formation was discussed during the meeting between Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Al- Ummah Party and prime minister. It was decided that the two parties' joint committee should continue its talks with the southern parties and the Sudanese National Party led by Father Philip Ghabbush, to reach an agreement with these parties on their participation in the new government.

A responsible source said that the expected announcement of the new government's formation was postponed due to Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani's sudden departure for London this morning on a 5-day private mission. The source added that the new government will be announced after 'Ali Mirghani's return. The formation of the new government is expected to be comprehensive and the change will include, in addition to the central government, the ministers of regional governments, as well as the competent national councils.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Returns From Japan 17 Oct
JN181230 Khartoum SUNA in English 1008 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 18 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi returned here last night ending a six-day official visit to Japan during which he had talks with Japanese leaders on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

The prime minister's visit to Japan, which began last Sunday, was described as successful by the Sudanese ambassador to Tokyo Saeed Saad.

The ambassador told SUNA the visit, which took place at a time when Japan as well as Sudan are undertaking a new international policy, had realized all its objectives.

He added that Al-Mahdi explained to the Japanese Government officials and the private sector's leaders Sudan's new economic policies adding that Japan is concerned over the economic situation in the country.

Sudan's delegation which accompanied Al-Mahdi on his visit to Japan had decided to set up a follow up committee for the outcomes of the visit.

The committee will be chaired by Commerce Minister and member of the delegation Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil.

Meanwhile, Al-Mahdi, in an interview with the Japanese newspaper *Japan Times* published in Tokyo yesterday, called on the Japanese Government to adopt a new "Marshall Plan" with the aim of mobilizing the conservative attitude among the industrial countries.

He pointed out that Japan has a huge commercial surplus and liquidity which is sufficient for activating the economic performance in other countries of the world.

Chadian Ambassador on Ties, Garang, Libya
JN171506 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Oct (SUNA)—Today, Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, acting State Council chairman, received Maitini Jombi [name as received], Chadian ambassador in Khartoum. Following the meeting, the ambassador explained to the press that the meeting dealt with relations between the two countries. He denied reports by some newspapers regarding Garang's departure for Ndjamena. He stated that such rumors are baseless and serve tendentious people who seek to undermine Sudanese-Chadian relations.

The ambassador said national reconciliation among Chadians has achieved more than 90 percent. [sentence as received] As for the Chadian-Libyan conflict over the Aozou Strip, the ambassador explained that Chad has presented documents concerning Chad's right to possess this strip to the OAU.

SPLA Attacks Troop Train, Kills 153 Soldiers
EA201511 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The SPLA forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Aweit Akuot, SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command alternate member and zonal commander, northern Bahr al-Ghazal, ambushed and attacked between (Ariyat) and (Malwal) stations, four trains carrying government soldiers, military and hardwares, [as heard] and food supplies for the government's besieged garrisons in Bahr al-Ghazal.

The ambush, which took place on the morning of 14 October 1987, resulted in the killing of 153 government soldiers, including their commander with a rank of colonel and five other officers of different ranks, and 200 others were seriously injured. [passage omitted]

Commenting on this development, the spokesman of the SPLA High Command refuted the Khartoum government's claims that the trains were ambushed by 4,000 SPLA soldiers. It is obviously not true that the trains

were ambushed by 4,000 SPLA soldiers. Nobody familiar with the war can believe such a story. Al-Sadiq is only covering up the military defeat inflicted on his army, said the spokesman.

He went on to say that the trains were not carrying relief supplies, as claimed by Al-Sadiq's government, but rather reinforcements to the besieged garrison of Uwayl and the divided town of Wau. The spokesman stressed that a train carrying relief supplies cannot possibly also carry a force capable of repulsing 4,000 troops, as claimed by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's Army headquarters. This is an obvious contradiction.

The besieged remnants of Al-Sadiq's troops in the remaining two trains are advised to surrender to the SPLA forces and be given safe conduct, or join the SPLA, or remain as POW's; and they are assured humane treatment according to the laws governing civilized warfare, and their release can be negotiated eventually through the International Red Cross, said the spokesman.

Meanwhile, the SPLA High Command has appealed to the troops in Grinti garrison in Wau to arrest their commander, Major General Abu Qurun, saying that the force that was (?destroyed) in the train ambush was coming to disarm disloyal troops in Grinti, after which they were to attack the police, prisons, and wildlife [as heard] in the other half of Wau town.

Abu Qurun is now urging the general headquarters to send another force to come and disarm you in Grinti. You must arrest Abu Qurun first and form a committee to bring peace to Wau town and reconcile the two sides of Wau town. The SPLA is ready to help in the process, so as to avert unnecessary bloodshed caused by those of Al-Sadiq in Khartoum who know nothing about what is happening in Wau and in the country at large, except their local situation in air-conditioned houses and offices. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Condemns Attack

JN191119 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1039 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Oct (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has described the attack on a relief train in Bahr al-Ghazal as a treacherous act. He said it indicates that the rebel movement is not serious about peace and has no respect for life.

In a press statement here yesterday, Al-Mahdi said that he will study all information before taking a position.

Al-Mahdi said that the government will not give up on its proposed alternative laws, which are based on the legal heritage prior to 1983, and which reconcile Islamic aspirations with the overall implementation of uncontroversial laws.

Numayri Property Seized; Flag Replaced

JN180947 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 15 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Khartoum—A high-ranking official has revealed to *Al-Siyasah* that the Sudanese Government has issued a resolution confiscating all property of the former president, Ja'far Numayri. This property includes the villa where he used to reside, which is located inside the Armed Forces General Command, and another villa located in the high-class housing area near the Khartoum airport. His property also includes a 50,000 square meter plot of land in Danaqilah, a city on the Nile in northern Sudan, and two other plots of land totaling 40,000 square meters in Madani, capital of the Central Region.

The resolution does not affect the house he used in Omdurman because it is owned by the mother of his wife, Buthaynah al-Khalil. However, some of the house's contents which were found in a closet, including valuable works of art, a set of golden swords, and other jewelery, were confiscated. The government returned 50 silk gowns, 28 civilian suits, and scores of leather shoes to the toppled president's family.

In another development, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, in his capacity as defense minister and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, issued a declaration stripping Numayri of all his military ranks and cancelling the orders, medals, and decorations which used to be issued in his name. The decision also cancelled the "hawk" state emblem chosen by Numayri and replaced it with the "unicorn". The current flag of the state was cancelled and replaced by the flag chosen by Sudan when its independence was announced in 1956.

2 Missing Following Student Demonstration

LD210002 Kuwait KUNA in English 1408 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 20 (KUNA)—Two school boys were reported mysteriously missing in the wake of student demonstrations in 'Atbarah, about 280 km. north of here, protesting the recent economic measures, *Al-Ayyam* daily said Tuesday.

Reporting from 'Atbarah, the paper said the demonstrations continued for the fifth successive day and came to a climax when news spread in town of the mysterious disappearance of two students—Eihab Abu Shanab and Mutasem al-Suri [names as received].

The students accused police of causing the drowning of the two boys in the Nile when they encircled the student demonstrators by forcing some of the students to jump into the river to escape the riot police clubs and tear gas.

The paper says that the police have denied the accusation and counter-charged that certain quarters they did not name have kidnapped the boys to fuel riots.

State Minister on Army's Nonpolitical Role

EA201748 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, minister of state in the Ministry of Defense and a retired major general, has stressed that the Armed Forces were discharging their responsibilities and performing a role in providing security and stability for the citizens regardless of cost in [word indistinct]. This is in addition to their national role in transporting relief items and supplies to citizens in any location.

Following the popular trade union solidarity demonstration, his excellency stressed the need to support the Armed Forces with self-denial and without casting them into political currents. This is because they are national forces charged with protecting territorial unity and the homeland's security. He said everyone should know that this Army did not belong to any party or tribe but that all were instead the sons of Sudan.

Western Sahara

Communique Claims IPU Support for Polisario

LD181223 Algiers APS in English 1016 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Bangkok, October 18 (APS)—The 78th Interparliamentary Conference which was held from 12 to 17 October in Bangkok (Thailand) reaffirmed its support to the Saharan people's struggle under the leadership of its legitimate and unique representative the Polisario Front, a communique from the Saharan Ministry of Information announced.

This interparliamentary conference debated "the contribution of parliaments to efforts for the carrying out of the declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples as well as the elimination of apartheid and any kind of racism". The communique indicated tens of parliamentarian delegations expressed their deep concern before the continuation of the Saharan people's struggle for the respect of its inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

The 78th conference adopted a resolution in which it reaffairmed its support to the Saharan people's right to self-determinatin and independence and renewed the appeal launched by the Interparliamentary Union during its last conferences for the reaffirmation of this inalienable right.

Trade Union Meeting Sends Message to UN, OAU

LD171040 Algiers APS in Arabic 0840 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Liberated Territories, 17 Oct (APS)—The second conference of the General Union of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro Workers, which concluded its work in SDAR liberated territories, renewed the leadership of the union and ratified an important and clear plan of action which defines the horizons for future trade union work.

The conference sent two messages to the UN secretary general and the current OAU chairman, President Kaunda, drawing their attention to Morocco's military escalation in Western Sahara and the concentration of Moroccan colonialist operations in Saharan territories on the eve of the UN technical mission's visit to Western Sahara.

The conference also sent a message to Moroccan and Spanish workers, which asked for greater solidarity with the struggle of the Saharan people.

The second conference of the General Union of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro Workers ratified resolutions reiterating the solidarity of Saharan workers with the Palestinian and South African struggles.

In addition, the conference sent messages to a number of regional and continental organizations and to the ILO.

Polisario Asserts Morocco Obstructs Peace

LD202308 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] The Polisario Executive Committee condemned the colonialist attempts of the Moroccan authorities to falsify social and demographic facts prior to the UN and OAU executive committees' visit to the Western Sahara.

The Polisario Executive Committee's statement, which was issued yesterday after its meeting under the chairmanship of President Mohamed Abdelaziz, stressed anew that the Moroccan Government's rejection of direct negotiations with the other side of the dispute, the Polisario, obstructs peace efforts ratified by the international community. The statement urgently appealed to all countries to urge the Moroccan Government to accept the will of the international community so that peace, stability, and security can be restored to the Arab Maghreb region.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

'Strong Explosion' Reported Near Port Sa'ud

NC211232 Paris AFP in English 1231 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, Oct 21 (AFP)—A strong explosion was heard early Wednesday near the port of Sa'ud in southern Kuwait, regional oil industry sources reported.

They said they could not immediately determine the nature of the explosion nor its precise location, as the port is near the "neutral zone" between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait where the border is ill-defined.

They said the blast had been heard by port workers.

Kuwaiti authorities refused to confirm the reports, although the cabinet was meeting in special session early Wednesday afternoon.

There were no details available on the agenda before the cabinet, which usually meets on Sunday.

Saudi 'Source' Denies Attack

LD211412 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1318 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Oct (SPA)—An official source has denied the truth of a report by *The Associated Press* this morning. Attributing this report to shipping sources, the agency said it refused to disclose the names of those who believe that Iran fired a Silkworm missile at the Al-Khafji oil platform.

The source told SPA that this report is categorically untrue, that it is based on mere assumptions and speculation, and that *The Associated Press* should check reports such as this one because of the confusion they might cause.

Bahrain

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives 20 Oct

JN201221 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Manama from Doha at noon today on a visit to Bahrain within a tour of regional states. Bahraini Minister of Interior Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah received him.

Meets With Amir

JN201447 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and his accompanying delegation this evening. They reviewed developments on the Palestinian issue and the situation in the occupied Arab territory in light of the Israeli occupation forces' arbitrary practices. They also exchanged views on developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas. They particularly discussed the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war, its repercussions on security in the Arabian Gulf, and the ongoing efforts to stop that destructive war in accordance with Security Council Resolution No 598.

Both sides also discussed ongoing preparations to convene the emergency Arab summit in Amman on 8 November to come up with resolutions and recommendations to serve the Arab nation's objectives, interests, and aspirations.

The amir of Bahrain affirmed to Yasir 'Arafat that Bahrain supports and stands by the side of the Palestinian people in their just struggle to regain their usurped rights and to establish their independent state on their national soil.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, Bahrain's minister of interior; and Wafa' Nabhan, director of the PLO office in Bahrain.

'Arafat arrived in Bahrain earlier today on a visit within a tour of a number of regional states.

Kuwait

Defense Ministry on Random Shelling Attack

LD201930 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1854 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Oct (KUNA)—A responsible source at the Defense Ministry replied tonight to a question from KUNA concerning reports of shells falling in Kuwaiti territory. This source stated that a number of shells have randomly fallen on the nation's northern borders today.

The source said it seems that these shells were the result of an exchange of fire between Iraq and Iran. The source also pointed out that no one was hurt as a result of these shells and that no damage was caused.

Bahraini Prime Minister Continues Visit

Meets Top Officials

LD201339 Kuwait KUNA in English 1000 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 20 (KUNA)—Bahraini Premier Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, who arrived here earlier today, immediately went into talks with H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini Interior Assistant Undersecretary Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman and the Bahraini ambassador.

The Kuwaiti-Bahraini talks touched on the brotherly relations between the two countries, latest developments in the region and issues of mutual interest.

Expresses Support, Departs

LD201705 Kuwait KUNA in English 1605 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 20 (KUNA)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah Tuesday left here after concluding a brief visit to Kuwait.

Shaykh Khalifah said in a pre-departure statement that he was pleased to meet H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, during which he conveyed a mesage to him from Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah on bilateral relations and developments in the region.

He added that this visit was a good opportunity to meet with H.H. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah during which he discussed issues of mutual interest as part of the continuous consultation and coordination between the two countries.

He expressed to Kuwaiti officials Bahrain's total solidarity and support against any threats.

He noted that talks also tackled developments in the Arab arena particularly before the Arab summit in Amman next month in which we hope to reach a solid Arab stance to secure Arab nation rights and best means to solve Arab problems.

The Bahraini premier said that, Arab people in the Gulf region are seeking a peaceful solution to end the ongoing Iraq-Iran war. He hoped that Iran would accept the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and settle the conflicts peacefully.

At the conclusion of his statement Shaykh Khalifah expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his visit to Kuwait particularly in further bolstering bilateral relations thanks to the guidance of their two wise leaderships.

Minister Cites Nation's Economic Stability

LD201654 Kuwait KUNA in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 87

[By Msalum al-Zamel]

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 20 (KUNA)—Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi ruled out Tuesday that the plunge in world share prices will have an adverse effect on Kuwaiti financial companies and affirmed the stability of the country's economic situation.

The minister told KUNA today that Kuwaiti shares were not pegged to the New York Stock Exchange and that the Kuwaiti companies were not registered there and consequently there was no link between the share prices in the local market and what happened in the international markets following the crash at Wall Street yesterday.

Minister al-Kharafi said that Kuwaiti investments abroad were based on long term strategies and not on quick profit-taking.

Regarding the State's investment policy, Al-Kharafi noted it was based on the principle of distributing of the basket of currencies in our investment portfolios abroad to provide necessary cover for them.

He said, "Our presence at various international markets lessens the negative effects of any changes resulting from the fluctuating situation at international stock markets."

The minister noted that what took place at world stock exchanges during the past two days, "affirmed our confidence in Kuwait's economy and the stability of our local markets" and will further encourage the return of capitals invested abroad for more guarantees and fewer risks.

Al-Kharafi expected the U.S. and other industrial giants to move immediately to contain the crisis which may also help correct share prices in world markets. He said "These markets will go back to normal and the indicator will gradually move up."

London bankers are reported to be saying today the dollar exchange rate continued its dip at the start of dealings in stock markets worldwide, amidst increasing tension over the status of U.S. economy.

The three biggest markets in the east—Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sidney—witnessed a big slump yesterday and a rush by investors to sell their stocks following the Wall Street record crash.

UN Envoy Calls for Disarmament Pact

LD202032 Kuwait KUNA in English 0817 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] United Nations, Oct 20 (KUNA)—Kuwait urged the superpowers to conclude a treaty on the comprehensive prohibition of nuclear tests.

Speaking yesterday on behalf of the Islamic states, Kuwait Ambassador Muhammad A. Abu al-Hasan also called on the superpowers to prevent an arms race in space, and prohibit chemical and biological weapons and "to immediately halt their use, development or storage."

Abu al-Hasan spoke in the General Assembly's Political and Security Committee.

He said Kuwait has consistently encouraged nuclear non-proliferation and the establishment of nuclear-free zones because it "directly feels the nuclear specter which threatens our region and looms over it from the Zionist entity."

The Zionist entity, he said, had embarked upon a programme to develop a nuclear military capability since the early years of its occupation of Palestine.

More than six years ago, Abu al-Hasan said, the world has been shocked when Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear station and had been dismayed by the subsequent implications for the international peaceful use of nuclear energy.

"Israel's nuclear threat and its flagrant defiance of the relevant international laws has precarious bi-products," he said.

"Those bi-products extended to South Africa whose nuclear cooperation with Israel constituted one major aspect of that disgraceful relationship," he said.

Abu al-Hasan called for the establishment of nuclear-free weapons-zones, not only in the Middle East and Africa, but also in Asia.

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Departs 19 Oct

LD200602 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat departed Kuwait tonight following a brief visit in which he met with his highness the amir and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

He also had talks with the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

He was seen off by 'Isa Muhammad al-Mazidi, the minister of state for services affairs.

Papers Laud U.S. Raid, Query Soviet Stand

LD210857 Kuwait KUNA in English 0758 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 21 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti newspapers Wednesday called for swift international action to halt the Gulf war and warned against Iran's intention to expand the conflict, with one daily calling for punishment of Iranian leaders for spreading their "corruption."

Al-Qabas newspaper said in an editorial that to avert a catastrophe the world community must urgently work to implement Security Council Resolution 598 which ordered a ceasefire and was ignored by Iran.

The paper said it should be viewed as a main source of concern that Tehran is relentlessly trying to keep the region ablaze and is becoming increasingly aggressive against non-belligerent Kuwait.

It cited an Iranian missile attack on a U.S.-flagged tanker in Kuwaiti territorial waters last week as an aggression against Kuwait and the United States at the same time.

Calling Washington's retaliatory strike at two Iranian oil platforms in the Gulf two days ago as a "logical" reaction to what Iran has done, the paper appealed to the world community to intervene promptly "to contain the fire" before it was too late.

Another Kuwaiti newspaper more strongly warned that if "Iran's madness" was left unchecked, it would explode the Gulf region and consequently the whole global situation.

Recalling that Kuwait was repeatedly attacked by Iran though it is no party to the conflict in the Gulf, *Al-Anba'* emphatically said, "The world community in its entirety must speedily and seriously implement Security Council Resolution 598..."

The paper, meanwhile, said Kuwait more than ever before need to be wary and cautious in the face of growing threats.

Al-Siyasah daily and its English-language twin, the *Arab Times*, indicated in an editorial that Iranian rulers must be punished for "spreading their corruption throughout the world."

The two papers cited Iranian attacks on commercial shipping in the Gulf, on Kuwait and a U.S.-flagged tanker as some of Tehran's "irresponsible" acts for which Iranian leaders must be penalized.

Al-Siyasah, in the same context, hailed the U.S. retaliatory strike against Iranian oil platforms last Friday as a "deterrent" which according to the paper indicated that American retaliation "can be precise and destructive if America so chooses."

The *Kuwait Times* daily, meanwhile, took time to analyze the Soviet Union's position on the Gulf war and questioned Moscow's philosophy in branding the U.S. retaliatory strike against Iran last week as an act of "armed aggression".

"The Soviet Union never called the Iranian strikes on ships of non-belligerent countries aggression," the paper said in an editorial.

Referring to what it called Moscow's growing friendship with Tehran, the paper noted that the Soviet official news agency TASS was noticeably swift in reacting, and denouncing, the U.S. attack on two Iranian oil platforms in the Gulf last Monday.

"Moscow cannot absolve itself of its peace responsibility in the Gulf by branding the retaliatory American action as aggression. For doing so would be a travesty of truth," according to *Kuwait Times*.

It noted that when many world countries have condemned the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as "aggression," Moscow disagreed and called it cooperation with the Afghan Government.

"We do not call the Soviet cooperation with Afghanistan an aggression but will expect Moscow to assign TASS to work out a comprehensive definition of aggression which can be applied to all excesses without the fear of contradictions," the paper concluded.

Qatar

'Arafat Arrives 19 Oct, Meets With Amir

JN201026 Doha QNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Doha, 20 Oct (QNA)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, today received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, who arrived in Doha from Kuwait yesterday.

During their meeting, they discussed the latest regional developments, the means to end the Iraq-Iran war by implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598, the current Arab situation, developments on the Palestine question on the Arab and international levels, and the situation in the occupied territories. The discussion comes in preparation for the extraordinary Arab summit conference scheduled to be held on 8 November.

They also discussed the good Qatari-PLO relations and Qatar's continuous support for the Palestine question in various fields.

Saudi Arabia

Kuwaiti Statement Given 'Complete Support'

LD201758 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1740 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Oct (SPA)—An official source made the following statement to SPA:

The Government of Saudi Arabia would like to express its complete support for the entire contents of the statement that was given by an authorized source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry and was relayed by KUNA this afternoon. The Kingdom also stressed its close solidarity with fraternal Kuwait in renewing the invitation to the international community and the UN Security Council to speed up implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. This is because it is the best means to end the escalation witnessed in the region.

Brazilian Army Minister Begins Visit

Received by King Fahd

LD202049 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, today received at his office in Al-Salam Palace His Excellency General Pires Goncalves Leonidas, Brazil's minister of the Army, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Excellency Mr 'Uthman al-Humayd, the deputy minister of defense and aviation for military affairs; and Mr Luiz de Castro, the Brazilian Embassy's charge d'affaires.

Meets With Defense Minister

LD202108 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1420 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, this afternoon received in his office in Jeddah General Pires Goncalves Leonidas, Brazil's minister of the Army, and the delegation accompanying him. During the encounter, they exchanged presents and then held a joint meeting that was attended on the Saudi side by Prince Fahd ibn 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad Al Sa'ud, deputy minister of defense and aviation for civil aviation affairs; Mr 'Uthman al-Humayd, deputy minister of defense and aviation for military affairs; Lieutenant General Yusuf al-Rashid, commander of the land forces; the commander of the artillery; the director general of the general establishment for military industries; and the director of the administration for purchases abroad.

On the Brazilian side, the meeting was attended by Jorge Luiz Ranjul [name as received], the Brazilian charge d'affaires, and the delegation accompanying the Brazilian minister of the Army.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud gave a press statement following the meeting and stated that the two sides had discussed methods of bolstering relations between the two countries. He added that "the Brazilian minister of the Army's visit to the Kingdom was in response to the visit I made to Brazil 2 years ago in which I signed a military cooperation agreement regarding the purchase of Brazilian military equipment for training purposes and the development of capabilities."

His highness went on to say that the visit of his excellency the Brazilian minister has had good results.

As for the new Brazilian deals, his highness indicated that "the deals are not signed in one session, but are the result of military missions." In this regard, his highness noted that "a Saudi military mission was indeed sent to Brazil some time ago and a Brazilian military mission came to the Kingdom. In light of this, joint reports will be assessed by both sides, when we will take appropriate measures in the near future, God willing."

His excellency the Brazilian Army minister also gave a statement in which he stressed the depth of the cordial relations and the friendship existing between the Kingdom and Brazil. He said: "This visit is aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries in various fields, particularly in the military field."

The Brazilian minister also expressed his country's desire to expand cooperation prospects with the Kingdom and to participate in implementing joint projects. He added that the relations of cooperation existing between the Kingdom and Brazil are based on friendship.

Ratification Plans Exchanged With Algeria

LD201418 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1510 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 19 Oct (SPA)—On behalf of Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, Husayn Abdallah Sajini, the under secretary of state for planning, and Abdelkarim Ghraieb, Algeria's ambassador to the Kingdom, exchanged the instruments of ratification of the economic, cultural, and technical agreement between the Kingdom and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

The agreement was signed in Algiers on 23 November 1986. It was signed on behalf of the Kingdom's Government by Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minster of planning, and for the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria by Abdelaziz Khellef, the minister of finance, as a general framework for joint cooperation between the two countries in all economic, cultural, and technical fields. [passage omitted]

FRG's Bangemann Arrives for Committee Session

LD182133 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1817 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 18 Oct (SPA)—FRG Minister of Economics Martin Bangemann arrived in Riyadh this evening to lead the German side in the eighth session of the German-Saudi joint committee, which will open tomorrow, on Monday. [passage omitted]

Meets With King Fahd

LD201729 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1540 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, today received at his office in Al-Salam Palace His Excellency Dr Martin Bangemann, the German minister of economics.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Excellency Muhammad al-'Ali Aba al-Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy; the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Germany; and Dr Walter Nowak, the German ambassador to the Kingdom.

Committee Meetings Begin

LD192232 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0912 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 19 Oct (SPA)—Meetings of the eighth session of the joint Saudi-German committee began at the Department of Hotels and Conferences in Riyadh at 0930 this morning under the chairmanship of Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, the Saudi minister of finance and national economy, and Dr Martin Bangemann, the FRG economics minister, in the presence of members of both government cum business delegations.

At the start of the opening meeting, Aba al-Khayl, the chief Saudi delegate, delivered a speech in which he pointed out that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom will continue with its economic policy, one based on the premise that the Kingdom constitutes a stable source for the production and export of oil to all parts of the world. He also stated that the Kingdom will seek to diversify its economy and create a favorable climate for expanding the private sector to enable it to take the initiative in investing in the national resources.

The Kingdom, he added, will continue to encourage the Saudi private sector to cooperate with friendly industrial powers' private sectors through joint investments. For this reason, he added, we expect the friendly countries

and particularly those considered our principal partners—such as West Germany—to understand the benefits this policy brings to both sides, to respond to it by increasing trade exchange between the two countries, and to encourage their private sectors to invest in these joint projects.

The Saudi minister of finance and economy added that the Kingdom is passing through a period of adaptation, having witnessed one of its most prominent periods of economic expansion during the past decade.

He pointed out that this adaptation has led to a long period of moderate but constant growth in which the Kingdom realized some advantages, the most important being the complete freeing of the Kingdom's economy from inflation and the private sector's success in increasing its productivity through the reduction of costs of production elements. This thereby created a basis for adopting sound economic resolutions.

He pointed out that the Kingdom's Government has constantly worked to further its policy of bolstering the private sector and providing it with the opportunity to lead economic development, and has worked for the implementation of policies that help the private sector to successfully pass through the period of adaptation by constantly giving priority in government spending, despite its decrease, to the granting of loans, the provision of industrial estates, and an increase in government purchases of local produce. He added that the government has adopted a number of measures to ensure the effective solution of trade conflicts.

Aba al-Khayl then reviewed the advantages that the Kingdom possesses regarding foreign investment, and welcomed it as a partner in the development of the Kingdom's resources and industrial capabilities.

He said that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom exceeds many other countries in being a developing country with good financial resources, in addition to being a stable country with a high-income consumer market just as it were a growing industrial market equipped with modern equipment.

The availability of energy in the Kingdom at low cost provides a competitive base. Furthermore, he said, the Kingdom is tied to other Arab countries of the region by agreements that ensure the easy access of these goods and services to the region's markets. He added that all these factors provide investors with basic advantages. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that technical cooperation between the two countries includes the presence of hundreds of experts who give technical advice to more than 24 ministries and companies all over the Kingdom.

His excellency explained that there are now more than 275 German experts working in the Kingdom. He pointed out that the German participation in the development and extension of technical teaching is the best example of the good cooperation between the two countries. His excellency said that this cooperation has proved its efficiency for more than 2 decades.

His excellency the minister of finance and national economy then reviewed the extent of trade between the Kingdom and Germany and pointed out that the Federal Republic of Germany is now considered to be the Kingdom's third most important trading partner.

He explained that the value of imports from Germany amounted to 5.75 billion Saudi riyals in 1986 while Saudi exports to Germany reached 2.12 billion riyals the same year.

His excellency further stated that although statistics have recorded some decrease in the amount of trade between the two countries during the first half of 1987, there are promising possibilities for increasing trade between the two countries through numerous channels within the committee's framework as well as other means. He explained that in addition to the memorandum of agreement that led to the joint committee's creation, this was followed by the signing of the agreement on guaranteed investments as well as the following, in chronological order: the agreement on technological and technical cooperation, the agreement on vocational training and technical teaching, the contract of expertise with the Germany agency for technical cooperation, and the agreement on the creation of the Saudi-German Company for Investment and Development, Ltd.

His Excellency Muhammad Aba Al-Khayl explained that in addition to these channels, there is also the bureau of economic contacts and the dialogue between businessmen of the two countries. The latter constitute a link between the two countries' business sectors.

His excellency expressed his hope in the increasing meetings between businessmen, following their meeting during this session, and for an extension of the current existing cooperation, which consists of 88 joint projects currently underway in the Kingdom possessing capital totaling 1.22 billion riyals. The German investment in these projects amounts to 15.4 percent of the funds invested in them. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister on Talks

LD201737 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1610 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Oct (SPA)—Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy, stated that his talks with Martin Bangemann, the West German minister of economics, focused on negotiations currently under way between the GCC countries and the EEC regarding the signing of a trade agreement between the two groups.

In a statement he gave to SPA following today's meeting between the two sides, he said that there is a recommendation by the EEC Presidency concerning the framework of these negotiations. He additionally pointed out that the Kingdom had some remarks to make on the proposed framework and that the presence of the German economics minister in Riyadh was an opportunity to explain the Kingdom's view on these recommendations.

Council of Ministers on Visits to Kingdom

LD201812 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 19 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a Council of Ministers meeting at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah this afternoon, Monday, 19 October 1987.

Following the meeting, His Excellency 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir, the minister of information, made a statement to SPA in which he said:

At the beginning of the session, the king informed members of the Council of the nature of the talks he held and the meetings he had with the Kingdom's most senior guests during the past week. These visitors were: His Excellency Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the president of Pakistan; George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state; John Herrington, the U.S. secretary of energy, who brought him a message from His Excellency U.S. President Ronald Reagan; Khristos Mavrellis, the Cypriot minister of finance, who brought him a message from Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou; and Charles Robb, a leader of the U.S. Democratic Party. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives 20 Oct

JN211120 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Abu Dhabi from Manama tonight on a visit to the UAE within the framework of his current tour of a number of regional countries.

In an arrival statement, 'Arafat said that his tour, which takes place prior to the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman on 8 November, is designed to discuss serious developments and events facing the Arab nation. This, he said, requires consultations so that the Arab states taking part in the summit can adopt positions tackling these events.

'Arafat began his current tour by visiting Iraq, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

Saddam Husayn Chairs RCC, Ba'th Party Meeting
JN210907 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has presided over a joint RCC and Ba'th Party Regional Command meeting. The Arab situation in general and the political developments and current events in the region in particular were discussed during the meeting.

Ramadan Receives Polish Culture Minister
JN151936 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Aleksander Krawczuk, Polish minister of culture and art. The Polish minister conveyed during the meeting the greetings of Wojciech Jaruzelski, secretary general of the Communist Party, to President Saddam Husayn, as well the Polish leadership's desire to reinforce cooperation with Iraq.

The first deputy prime minister reviewed developments in the aggressive war launched by Iran against Iraq. He affirmed that Iraq will continue its peaceful efforts out of its principles and human responsibility. Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed that the Iranian bombardment of the Balat al-Shuhada' school is a continuation of the Iranian regime's behavior and its shelling of residential areas.

The Polish minister described the criminal crime of the Khomeyni regime as a dirty operation because it was targeted against strictly residential areas. He expressed his country's appreciation for Iraq's peaceful efforts, which embody a sincere desire to end the war.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Polish ambassador in Baghdad, they reviewed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in the service of the two friendly countries' common interest.

Culture Minister Jasim Comments on Gulf War
PM191005 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 3 Oct 87 pp 8-14

[Interview with Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim by Fu'ad Matar in Baghdad 19 September]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] Question: Are you satisfied that the Iranian regime in its procrastination regarding Security Council Resolution 598 might succeed in making some of the big powers reconsider their position on the resolution or agree to give priority to some clauses over others?

Answer: We are very satisfied that the major countries which are permanent members of the Security Council support the resolution. Even if a step is not taken toward applying the second clause, that is, sanctions, at least the resolution will be applied. For our part we expressed our opinion clearly. Our foreign minister went to the United Nations with a message which included Iraq's acceptance of the resolution. Diplomatically this means that we respect the international organization and the resolution.

The Iranian regime is relying on procrastination and misleading world public opinion. It is trying to raise the hopes of the Iranian people by portraying the so-called investigation and other phrases as major issues, although if this subject is opened it will not aid the regime, since it will be condemned.

As for our position, we are capable of hitting Iran's economic and oil arteries, as well as energy sources and fields. We spared no efforts to achieve peace. President Saddam Husayn accepted the cease-fire decision issued by the Security Council. We also accepted other resolutions resulting from Resolution 598. The president delegated the popular Islamic conference to settle the conflict through arbitration. We have done what is required and more to prove our good intentions and respond to the call for peace and have applied principles to the letter.

As regards the war, our military resources and capabilities are very great now, whether at the level of arms, superior manpower, or the Air Force and its effectiveness against Iran's rear, since our planes reach distances exceeding 1,000 km. So we have worked for peace as well as for war for 7 years with every possible effort and efficiently. When peace opportunities are presented, we shall welcome them. If the opportunity is not presented, that is, if the Iranian side does not respond, then the question will remain for the future.

We consider the Security Council resolution good despite the fact that it does not give Iraq any gains. In fact, an end to the fighting, a return to international borders, and the exchange of prisoners, as well as other things, would be considered gains for both sides.

I believe that Iran will also gain, since the hemorrhage will stop, giving it the opportunity to rebuild itself and restore the resources and human potential lost on both sides. We welcome the resolution because we basically do not need war and did not ask for it. [passage omitted]

Question: Do you believe that some Security Council members may revert or delay exerting pressure to implement Resolution 598?

Answer: So far there are no indications. But we are keeping a close watch on the situation. Contacts will be made through the 7-member committee and Iraqi diplomacy to probe the big powers' moves. But so far the intention declared by the media is to apply the resolution.

Question: What means of pressure outside the war do you believe can be used to force the Iranian regime to reconsider its intransigence?

Answer: What do you mean by "outside the war"?

Question: I mean other than force.

Answer: Force should be accompanied by other factors, including international pressure, an arms embargo, and economic sanctions. This is because the war is no longer limited to Iraq and Iran; it involves the whole region and threatens world peace. The war created a special situation in the Gulf region no longer limited to Iraqi borders. It could be said that an arms embargo might be broken by one party or the other.

However, we do not consider this question in respect of the quantity of arms delivered, but in respect of the casual results which might emerge at the political and information level, as well as at the level of the relationship between the Iranian people and their rulers and so on. Besides, controlling arms supplies to Iran is no simple task. [passage omitted]

Question: We ask you in your capacity as an official in the Iraqi leadership: Why do you think an Iranian regime of this kind could stop the war and that Iraq could begin to coexist with it?

Answer: Assumption is one thing and reality is another. In other words, when assumption becomes reality there would be a different situation. This is because withdrawal to the borders, a cease-fire, and the time necessary for nursing wounds are very important factors. I do not believe that relations between the two sides will be restored to their previous state because of psychological, economic, and political considerations. This is because the matter requires a long period of time. But at least during the first stage after the war both sides would be guaranteed noninterference in internal affairs, which is an important matter for both sides, especially with regard to mutual respect for each other's options and will. This would be an acceptable limit for a relationship of this kind.

The problem is associated with time and prospects that should be studied. Indeed, it is associated with the nursing of deep wounds which the Iranian regime has inflicted on our people and us for no reason, unless spite accumulated over thousands of years has exploded at the Iraqis. But for us to think that overnight we will see tourism, trade, and visits exchanged would mean that there would have to be different people; namely a different Iran and a different Iraq.

Question: Whenever someone sits down with an Iraqi official he notices that the official speaks with considerable confidence. Now that the war has entered its 8th year, is this confidence based on results or on specific talk that officials have heard from higher authorities?

Answer: We see and sense things. Our position is like that of someone who is aware of his health. The patient knows his illness better than the physician does. If he is healthy he would be aware of his health, I mean how healthy he is, better than a physician would. To us we know how healthy, how capable militarily, mentally, and morally we are. We know all this better than anyone else. We are today stronger than we were on the first day of the war; this is no media talk.

Question: Is this talk for raising morale or...

Answer: Absolutely not. I am saying this to you as a brother and friend who is familiar with our situation.

Question: Let us then say it to the people in detail.

Answer: We are militarily stronger than Iran on both the human and technological levels. When 100 Iraqi planes fly over Iran, Iran can only afford to send 1 and if it is lucky 2. The Iraqi planes and the long arm of the Iraqi Air Force can reach all economic arteries. We are capable of demolishing Iran brick by brick.

Question: This means that you translate this talk [into action] daily.

Answer: Yes. We do this daily since we began hitting Iranian economic arteries. We have decided to return Iran to the stage of relying on "rugs" rather than oil. Our people are cohesive, our state is active, and our people are without exception working hard for the economy. As for oil as a strategic economic commodity, its production has reached reassuring and excellent levels. We have secured alternatives to the Syrian pipeline, as well as other alternatives to the Gulf. In a short period of time Iraq will reach the export output of 4 September 1980, whereas Iran will experience deterioration and decline.

The Iranian leadership constitutes a group with conflicting wings. Although Khomeyni was the consolidating and driving force in the past, he a spent force both mentally and physically, since he is an aging man incapable of dealing with events. Besides, their slogans regarding what they call "the sweeping and final offensive," as well as "the next offensive in Karbala'," are all empty. [passage omitted]

We are not saying that the war has ended. We are saying that it has been settled with regard to its strategic dimension. Therefore, we are dealing with daily aspects of life as if we were in a postwar stage. Committees comprising comrades from the leadership have been formed to study the concept of the future society after the war. President Saddam Husayn has issued administrative instructions to state organs and party organizations to implement all clauses concerning the postwar period. We are now in a postwar stage.

However, this does not mean that we are taking a rest from fighting. No fighter will rest before the Iranians return to their territory, withdraw to international borders, and return prisoners to their families. After that we will consider that a rest period for fighters has begun, during which building will proceed rapidly and with the most advanced means. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Kittani Meets With Perez de Cuellar

JN201635 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] United Nations, 20 Oct (INA)—'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's permanent UN representative, met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York today to discuss the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war. They also discussed ways to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for a comprehensive end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Communique No 2,881

JN201726 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,881 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces have continued their combat activities, inflicting on the Zionist aggressors new losses. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. The brave helicopter knights carried out 21 combat sorties. They inflicted new losses on the enemy in personnel, weapons, and equipment. They then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, two enemy soldiers were killed and one vehicle was damaged.

3. In the Special I Army Corps sector of the Allahu Akbar Forces, six enemy soldiers were killed and one 180-mm mortar emplacement was destroyed.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, six enemy scoundrels were killed or wounded, one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed, two vehicles were damaged, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one ammunition dump was destroyed. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, one infantry position was destroyed.

6. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one machinegun emplacement was destroyed. In the VII Army Corps sector, one shovel was destroyed and its driver killed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 October 1987

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN210636 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0612 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Military spokesman's statement dated 21 October]

[Text] To deprive the Zionist Iranian regime of the oil supplies it is using to serve its evil aggressive purposes against our country, our bold Air Force carried out a successful raid on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 2300 [2000 GMT] yesterday. After delivering an accurate and effective blow, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

[Dated] 21 October 1987

Basra Shelled 20 Oct

JN210654 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA)—The Iranian regime shelled the southern city of Basra with long-range artillery last night. In a statement to INA today, the Iraqi military spokesman said a child was wounded and some houses were damaged in the shelling.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Claims 71 Iranians Killed

JN151308 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Paris, Oct 15, INA—Militants of the Iranian opposition movement of Mojahedin-e Khalq killed 71 Iranian troops and wounded 22 others in an overnight attack on several Iranian bases on Monday. The movement said in a statement released here today that a combat brigade of the National Liberation Army (NLA) attacked bases in the western Iranian border province of Ilam and captured an important hill south of Mimak area.

All the government troops in the hill area were killed except for 17 who were captured, it said. Six NLA fighters were killed, it added. The statement said Monday's attack was the 90th NLA assault this year. In those attacks, 3,750 Iranian forces had been killed or wounded and 254 captured, it said.

Iranian Force 'Destroyed'

JN191940 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—Units from the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] carried out large-scale operations against bases of the Iranian regime's forces in the Marivan area in western Iran last Friday. Radio Mojahed, mouthpiece of the Iranian Mujahedin-e Khalq opposition organization, in a report monitored here

today, said the INLA forces attacked bases of the regiments of the 1st and 2d Brigades belonging to the 30th Division, as well as a regiment belonging to the 105th Division of the Khomeyni Guards.

A large number of the regime's personnel were either killed or wounded and other personnel were captured, including a number of the regime's commanders. The attack destroyed quantities of military hardware and equipment. A wide area was brought under control after penetrating the lines of the Iranian regime's forces.

Radio Mojahed pointed out that the attacked positions were set ablaze. Helicopters and ambulances were seen transporting the Iranian dead and wounded. The radio said the INLA fighters pounded a force sent by the Iranian regime to reinforce its troops in the area. The force was destroyed, sustaining heavy losses in men and equipment. The INLA units seized quantities of weapons and military equipment, including military vehicles, various guns, mortars, RPG-7 rockets, and light weapons and equipment.

INA Carries Further Data on Recent Census

JN192012 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1437 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—Planning Minister Dr Samal Majid Faraj has said the population of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, totals 3,844,608 citizens, according to the general census, some of the results of which were announced yesterday. This figure equals 23.6 percent of Iraq's total population.

In a statement to INA today, he said the population of each of the Governorates of Nineveh in northern Iraq and Babylon in central Iraq has exceeded 1 million. The population of the Nineveh Governorate totals 1,507,926 and that of the Babylon Governorate 1,108,733 people. The planning minister pointed out that there are five governorates with populations of over 750,000 people. These are the Governorates of Diyala, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Dhi Qar, Al-Basrah, and Al-Anbar.

Daily Calls Musavi Visit 'Scandal' for Al-Asad

JN201459 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 20 Oct 87

Baghdad, Oct. 20, INA—*Al-Thawrah* daily of Baghdad described the current visit to Damascus by Iranian Regime Premier Hoseyn Musavi as a scandal to Hafiz al-Asad regime for it comes six days after launching a missile on Balat al-Shuhada' school in Baghdad and one day after firing two Iranian missiles on Kuwait.

A daily article here today said Musavi visit to Damascus would be a working visit especially as Hafiz al-Asad prepares to take part in the forthcoming Arab summit, a matter requires providing him with directives and necessary instructions on what to say and do there in advance. [sentence as received]

It said that this is part of the objectives of the visit as Tehran is the one that defines movements of Damascus and dictates order on Hafiz al-Asad who on his part implements. The daily referred to Radio Tehran description of the visit which said that it has special meanings and concepts.

Peres on Talks With USSR, PRC Counterparts

TA201706 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has reached an arrangement with the Soviet foreign minister according to which Jews will receive entry visas for Israel at the Israeli Embassy in Romania instead of at the Netherlands Embassy in Moscow. Our correspondent Yinon Shenkar has the details:

[Begin recording] This morning Shim'on Peres expanded in great detail on his contacts over the past few months with foreign ministers from various countries, concentrating on his meetings with the Chinese and Soviet foreign ministers.

There are changes in the Soviet position both on the Jewish issue and in bilateral relations, as well as on furthering the peace process, Peres told committee members. He stressed that Eduard Shevardnadze is not hostile to Israel or Jews, nor is he doctrinaire. Shevardnadze and I arrived at a detailed proposal, the foreign minister said, that will lead to an encouragement for Soviet immigration by issuing Jews entry visas for Israel at the Israeli Embassy in Romania instead of at the Netherlands Embassy in Moscow. He said the Soviets had expressed gratitude to Israel for having extended the Soviet delegation's permission to stay, and that the Soviets are exhibiting a new, consistent position on the international conference. There is no more demand for the PLO's participation in the conference as an involved side, but there is willingness to accept a Palestinian delegation acceptable to the PLO, even within the framework of the Jordanian delegation.

Peres repeated his statement that the next 3 months are most significant for Israel. The foreign minister expressed the belief that an arrangement will be attained between the United States and the Soviet Union within the next few months, and so it is our duty to try to deal with the main thing—the Jews of the Soviet Union—during that period. It would be a pity to waste time on verbal and philosophical arguments with the Soviets over the issue of repatriation. Jews' rights to return to their homeland cannot be realized. We must therefore increase the number of those leaving and bring about direct flights, Shim'on Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

On the topic of Israeli-Chinese relations, the foreign minister related that China is interested in promoting its ties with Israel, particularly in the field of trade. The Chinese foreign minister told Peres that his meeting with him was the beginning of a process developing between the two countries.

No discussion developed in the committee after Shim'on Peres' remarks. [end recording]

Shamir Discharged After Cataract Surgery

TA201241 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] A short time ago Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was discharged from the Hadassah-'en Karem Hospital after having undergone surgery this morning for the removal of a cataract from his left eye. The operation proceeded uneventfully and lasted about 1 hour. Mr Shamir returned home a short time ago. Our correspondent Mikhal Tzemah was told by doctors in the hospital that the prime minister will be able to resume normal activities as early as tomorrow. As may be recalled, Mr Shamir underwent similar surgery on his right eye a few months ago.

Murphy Arrives on Surprise Visit, Meets Shamir

TA210841 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0830 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived in Israel this morning on a surprise visit. He conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the latter's residence in Jerusalem. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel notes that Murphy came to report on Secretary of State Shultz' talks with King Husayn and President Mubarak, and particularly on the Jordanian king's reaction to the new formula for direct political negotiations with the limited accompaniment of the two superpowers. Murphy will confer with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at noon today.

Change in Shamir Position on Conference Denied

TA210631 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
21 Oct 87 pp 1, 6

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, yesterday denied what he termed "the various journalistic speculations about a change, as it were, in the prime minister's position on an international conference." Pazner said that the prime minister adheres to his position that peace in the Middle East will only be achieved through direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors.

The *Ha'aretz* correspondent notes that the prime minister and the vice prime minister have agreed that the new format for the peace talks will not be described as an international conference, but rather as direct talks under the auspices of the superpowers. This will enable Shamir to reject claims from the right wing—both inside and outside his party—that he gave in to U.S. pressure on the international conference. Several Likud and Tehiya politicians already approached the Prime Minister's Office yesterday in order to verify whether Shamir had withdrawn his opposition to an international conference. [passage omitted]

Tehiya To Submit No-Confidence Vote 21 Oct

TA202044 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Tomorrow the Tehiya Knesset faction will submit a vote of no confidence in the government. In the view of the Tehiya members, the Likud leaders surrendered to pressure applied by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz to agree in principle on incorporating the Soviet Union in the negotiations on peace in the area. The Likud's denials are not convincing, said Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen, who will raise the motion tomorrow.

Peres Cites Jordan Influence in Soviet Policy

TA210955 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Oct 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] There are clear signs of Jordanian influence on the new Soviet diplomatic positions regarding the Middle East, Foreign Minister Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee yesterday.

He said that signs of the dialogue between Moscow and Amman, whose relations had become closer over the past year, became evident in the formulations which Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze used at his meeting with Peres at the UN recently.

Whereas last year the Soviet foreign minister stipulated the participation of the PLO at an international conference, this year he used the term: joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Peres told the committee.

The Soviet stance had evolved in other ways as well since his 1986 meeting at the UN with Shevardnadze, Peres said. Soviet leaders would previously accept lists of refuseniks from third parties only but this time Shevardnadze gracefully accepted the list which Peres submitted.

"For the first time," said Peres, "the Soviet Union recognizes Israel as a legitimate partner in the issue of Soviet Jewry."

He added: "Assuming that the U.S. and the Soviet Union reach a weapons limitation accord in about three months, we must ensure that before that deadline we make substantial progress on the aliya issue." [passage omitted]

Editorials, Comments on Shultz Visit, Results

Outcome Termed 'Stalemate'

TA202020 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Oct 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Visit and the Vicious Cycle"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz concludes his trip to the Middle East today with a visit to Cairo. He will then depart for London to brief King Husayn on the outcome of his talks with Israeli officials. What has been reported, though, on the existence of a plan about an interim agreement between Jordan and Israel, will not win the consent of the Jordanian monarch who is preparing to host the extraordinary Arab summit, because he will not risk accepting any proposal that would evoke a storm of disagreement and criticism at the Amman conference.

Before leaving Washington Shultz announced that he was not carrying anything new, and as was expected, he was not able to overcome Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's rejection to an international conference. Thus the U.S. secretary is departing the region leaving behind a peace process stalemated in a vicious cycle, for he has failed to restore U.S. credibility.

Reinforcement of the deadlock is what one should expect in the coming period, for as of the beginning of next month the U.S. political climate will heat up in the approach to the presidential election campaign scheduled in a year's time.

It is only fair to say that no one expected positive results from Shultz' visit, particularly since he declared before leaving Washington that he would not interfere in internal Israeli affairs in an attempt to exert pressure on those who reject the international conference concept. Indeed, how could he do this when his government lacks a specific and clear position on how to deal with the impediments obstructing the advance of the peace process.

With regard to the meeting he was scheduled to hold with a number of Palestinian notables and which was not held as a result of the decision by these people to boycott the meeting, Shultz should ask himself: Why do Palestinian notables go and meet foreign ministers of West European countries and foreign prime ministers who visit the country? If Shultz can answer this question, he would know the reason why the meeting was not held.

Shultz' statements as well as the U.S. Administration's positions rejecting the international conference concept and the persistence in ignoring the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, headed by the right to self-determination and the choice of representatives, must have played a major role in convincing the Palestinian notables of the futility of meeting with him. The miserable conditions experienced by the Palestinian people cannot be rectified by the cosmetic changes Shultz and other decisionmakers and statesmen in Washington are proposing.

Palestinian Missed Opportunity

TA201831 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 19 Oct 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Our Positions Affect Arab Positions"]

[Text] The remarks by the U.S. Secretary of state during his press conference yesterday are worth pondering from a Palestinian viewpoint, as well as from an Arab perspective. The reason for this is that the secretary will hold

talks with heads of two Arab states that are principal parties in efforts to convene an international conference.

The Palestinian problem, being the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is a perpetual pan-Arab concern. An Arab position that is not unified affects the Palestinian problem. It is also necessary to acknowledge that both negative and positive Palestinian positions affect the Arab stance on the Palestinian problem, on the efforts exerted by Arab states to achieve a peaceful solution ensuring the Palestinian people's salvation from occupation, and on the liberation of Arab lands.

George Shultz left Israel today for Egypt, carrying negative impressions caused by the refusal of Palestinians to meet and talk with him. There is no doubt that these negative U.S. impressions will express themselves during the talks that will be held this week between the U.S. secretary, President Mubarak, and King Husayn.

We believe that the refusal of the invitees to meet with George Shultz was a mistake. On one hand, these persons missed an opportunity to explain the suffering and aspirations of their people under occupation to the secretary of state of a superpower that has an enormous capability in influencing Israeli positions. On the other, the policy of petitions and memorandums is no longer effective at the stage our cause has reached.

It should be said here that under no circumstances does meeting George Shultz signify agreement with the negative positions adopted by the U.S. Administration toward many Palestinian issues. But we should also realize that the viewpoints of Palestinians are not entirely acceptable to many foreign and friendly countries. By taking cognizance of the reality of international politics, the Palestinian positions should have moved toward effecting a change in U.S. positions, or at least should create positive and serious impressions of the Palestinians. Such a move would definitely serve to reinforce Arab efforts aimed at liberating their people from Israeli occupation.

Peres, Shamir 'Rapprochement'

TA201903 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Oct 87 p 6

[Pinhas 'Inbari commentary: "Shultz: Bridges in the Dark"—boldface words as published]

[Text] There may have been no real shift in the principal matter of an international conference, but there has been a surprising development in the wake of talks with Shultz: A rapprochement between Peres and Shamir, of all things. The process has not yet ripened, but it may become very interesting in the future.

Because of the complete secrecy that enveloped Shultz' talks in Israel, very little is known of their content. The secrecy was essential to prevent sensitive information from reaching Shamir's adversaries in the Likud and from getting to...Rabin!

Shultz himself did not conceal his desire to bridge the gap between Peres and Shamir, this being the condition, from his point of view, for any real progress in the political process. Therefore, the positions of both sides should be examined so that we may be able to speculate on the topics Shultz may have discussed with them and the extent to which he may have found a common denominator between the two.

The talks may be divided into two topics: the nature of the solution to the problem of the territories; and the procedures of the political process.

As far as the first subject is concerned, the controversy between Peres and Shamir is smaller than people tend to believe: Both stand for what they call "functional arrangements"—and what others term "confederative solutions"—and as long as one does not go into detail, this would seem to be an agreement in principle over the nature of the solution.

It is well known that the real controversy revolves around the procedures of the political process. Peres is in favor of an international conference in the format of an opening ceremony to direct talks. Shamir doubts that such a format is feasible and believes Israel should steer clear of an international conference. How can Shultz close these gaps, when he himself is very wary of the active role the Soviets are demanding for themselves in the conference, and of the nature of the PLO? The solution lies in the recently discussed "preparatory conference," which may be renamed in order to sound more appealing to Shamir. This format was used at the end of 1977 in Mena House in Cairo for the "opening ceremony" of the Camp David process. This format has several advantages: First of all, it is based on direct talks, since it is the preparatory stage before the rigid procedures of the international conference are established. There is no reason why the parties, as they confer face to face, should not deal with the political issues as well as with the formulation of procedures. Another solution would be a low-level conference that would help solve the problem of Soviet and Palestinian participation. In such a conference, the Soviet involvement would be low-key, limited, and "nonthreatening." The PLO itself would not have to send its "big shots" who are unacceptable to Israelis. They would be able to send low-level functionaries, perhaps Palestinian academics, along with PLO supporters from the territories.

It is hard to believe at this stage that Shamir would support this form of political process, both because of his extreme suspiciousness and because of his desire to spare Israel's right wing the worst dilemma it can face: territories in exchange for Jews, which is the key Soviet

formula for the success of the political process. It stands to reason that Shamir pressed Shultz to have the matter of resumed Jewish emigration from the USSR discussed on the inter-bloc level, rather than make it dependent upon the political process in the Middle East.

As expected in his talks in the United States, Peres did not fail to link the emigration issue to the Middle East problem, while at the beginning of the week Immigration and Absorption Minister Ya'aqov Tzur made certain statements linking immigration and direct flights from Moscow to the political process in the Middle East. This means that Shamir would consent to the preparatory conference, however it may be called, only after Shultz returns from Moscow with a message that the Soviets are not linking emigration with an agreement about the territories.

The sting in this description is that, to Rabin's dismay, his alliance with Shamir is gradually dissolving, and the latter is hesitantly setting the climate for his embrace of Peres' concepts once he receives the required Soviet assurances regarding emigration from the USSR.

The shift in the alliances per se would not have mattered to Rabin had it not involved a change in the Likud's attitude toward the PLO. This is a process the defense minister may seriously and anxiously follow. Rabin, like many others, was probably surprised by the 'Amirav-Al-Husayni contacts, and it is clear to him that Shamir was at least aware of them. He has also been watching the reactions in Herut to these contacts and, to his surprise, the incident has been easily digested, considering its "severity." 'Amirav was not punished. He remains a member of the Herut Central Commitee, and has been acquiring support for his ideas through the press.

In this context, note should be taken of an interview with Ari'el Sharon in *Hadashot* in which he abstained from attacking the PLO even when asked a direct question about it. When asked about Husayn, he replied that he did not necessarily regard the king as a partner. If the Palestinians want Husayn, it is their problem. "They want the king? Let them have the king! **Whoever wants to talk let him talk,"** replied Sharon to a specific question regarding **'Arafat.** If this is what mighty Sharon thinks, what can small-fry Herut members say? Although Sharon was not explicit, his message was clear, particularly in view of the remarks he made 2 weeks earlier in his own personal style that "everybody from 'Arafat down should be killed." Rabin has been anxiously following the pro-Palestinian winds blowing in the Likud for fear that the Shamir-Arens camp may yet grant Peres a license to accept the PLO in the political process.

The situation becomes even more acute when it comes to a solution to the problems of the territories by means of a confederation. Jordan is opposed to this kind of solution. *Al-Nahar,* its mouthpiece in East Jerusalem, attacks the idea each time it comes up. On the other hand, the PLO does not conceal its fondness for such a solution. Its journals, such as *Falastin al-Thawrah,* hardly ever miss a chance to translate Israeli press articles on this subject.

It is against this background that one should interpret Rabin's special effort to stress his affinities with Shamir, even at the expense of his affinities with Peres, ever since the 'Amirav affair was exposed.

Former Mayor on Shultz Boycott

TA201743 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 19 Oct 87 p 7

[Interview with former Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, by Khalid Qasim Abu-'Akr; date and place not given]

[Text] [Abu-'Akr] As one of those who received an invitation to meet with Shultz, what is the reason for the wide consensus in boycotting and not meeting him?

[Al-Natshah] The refusal to meet with Shultz is a protest against U.S. policy toward the Palestinian problem, as well as a protest against the closure of the PLO information office in Washington. U.S. policy refuses to recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people, their right to self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil. It also refuses to recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's legitimate representative.

[Abu-'Akr] It was reported that you were chosen to deliver a memorandum to Shultz. This, however, contradicts the decision to boycott him.

[Al-Natshah] We are interested in explaining our people's national demands to the U.S. Administration and to world public opinion. This does not contradict our decision to boycott Shultz due to the U.S. Administration's position which desavows the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, and also because of the administration's continuing support for Israel and its policy in the occupied territories. The national personalities who received an invitation concurred in boycotting the meeting and in formulating a memorandum expressing their viewpoint. This was to be handed over to Shultz. I was chosen to chosen to deliver the memorandum.

[Abu-'Akr] Did this happen?

[Al-Natshah] I personally was supposed to hand over the memorandum yesterday evening, but the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem did not permit me. It justified this behavior by our refusal to meet Shultz.

[Abu-'Akr] There was talk that Shultz was carrying new proposals. What is your opinion?

[Al-Natshah] Any proposals that ignore basic Palestinian principles are rejected by all our people.

AL-FAJR on Shultz Boycott

TA201546 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 18 Oct 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Boycott"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will leave Israel this evening or tomorrow after a 3-day visit during which he heard what he wished to hear from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, his deputy and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This listening does not concern us at all as long as the identical U.S.-Israeli position is maintained and might even become more cohesive in the aftermath of this visit. What is important to us and concerns us though, is that this U.S. secretary could not find a national Palestinian ear in the occupied land that would listen to him and to his lies and illusions that preceded him to the region and accompanied him throughout his entire trip.

The decision to boycott this U.S. secretary was made within the framework of a unified national Palestinian position and reinforced a number of facts and principles, the most significant of which is that the PLO is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people everywhere, inside and outside the occupied land; and that no party irrespective of its importance, even the United States, can bypass this legitimate representative and deal with a spurious substitute.

The Palestinian voice in this respect is clear, decisive, and is against any attempt to distort and falsify the facts. This voice was expressed in the occupied land by all available means, including the boycott itself, to thunder strongly into the ears of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz: No to U.S. policy that is hostile to our people's rights, and no to capitulation to any suspect solution.

What remains, nevertheless, are the things that George Shultz has heard or will hear from Arab rulers and officials in their capitals, particularly in Cairo, Riyadh, and then in London—which in some respects appears to have become an Arab capital for a number of rulers—where he will meet with King Husayn.

The United States has lost all credibility in the serious search for peace in the region, not only in the era of Ronald Reagan. We can include all U.S. administrations, from Truman's up to the present one, in this "loss." U.S. intransigence toward all Arab causes, headed by the Palestinian cause, is persisting amid conditions of discord among Arab states and the collapse of their comical positions, which in turn has been a cause for the escalation and growth of the hostile U.S. stance.

Although we do not expect that George Shultz will hear anything helpful from our Arab rulers in confronting U.S. intransigence, or which affirms Arab rights and our own national Palestinian rights, we ask those rulers to listen at least once to the voice of our people in the occupied lands, affirming and insisting on their national rights and their rallying around the PLO for the sake of a comprehensive and just peace in the region. Otherwise, every effort will result in nothing and all these political equations will not even achieve a single step toward peace.

Air Link With Poland To Begin Operation 22 Oct

TA161153 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Report by 'Amos Har'el]

[Text] Three weeks after the agreement on direct flights from Yugoslavia to Israel, an agreement was signed 2 days ago on similar flights from Israel to Poland. Sun D'or a subsidiary of El Al, will operate the flights. An El Al delegation which was in Warsaw for a week returned home with an agreement to operate the commercial flights. An agreement in principle was reached several weeks ago in political level talks. In contacts with the management of the Warsaw airport and with representatives of Lot, the Polish airlines, an agreement was reached which worked out all the technical arrangements for the flights.

The first flight to Warsaw will take off next Thursday, 22 October. Its passengers will be Israelis with visas for Poland. The first passengers from Warsaw to Lod will be a group of Jewish fund-raisers from the United States.

[Jerusalem *The Jerusalem Post* in English on 16 October on page 17 adds that "the agreement also allows Lot to fly to Israel, but according to El Al officials, the Polish airline has not yet committed itself to operating the Warsaw-Tel Aviv route."]

El Al has been operating package deals, which includes flights from the United States to Eastern Europe and from there to Israel, for some time. Future flights will not be according to a fixed timetable but according to demand. The price of a ticket to Poland is $477. El Al promises that food in both directions will be kosher.

Participation in Turkish Agricultural Project

TA201140 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Oct 87 p 3

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Avi Gan-Or]

[Excerpts] The Turkish Government has agreed in principle to include Israeli elements in large-scale economic projects in Turkey. This was reported by Yehuda Milo, the Israeli charge d'affaires in Ankara.

The main project is a large-scale agricultural project in southern Anatolia on an area of 17,000 square km, involving hundreds of millions of dollars and partly financed by the World Bank. This project includes the development of irrigation methods and agricultural fields, among other things.

The Israeli representation in Ankara will provide Israeli companies with more details which will help them participate in this project, as well as other projects being planned in Turkey.

At present, trade between Israel and Turkey is minimal. Israeli exports to Turkey mainly consist of agricultural equipment, fertilizers, and pesticides amounting to approximately $35 million annually. Imports from Turkey amount to $15 million annually, and primarily consist of dried fruits. [passage omitted]

To date, Turkey has avoided open public relations with Israel, fearing adverse effects on its relations with Arab countries. Recently, however, there has been a considerable improvement in bilateral relations. The Israeli representation in Ankara even received complaints from Turkish companies which had turned to Israeli companies and had tried to interest them in projects in Turkey, but received no replies.

Shamir Inaugurates Jewish College in West Bank

TA192018 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
19 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by education affairs correspondent Nili Mendler]

[Excerpts] "Jerusalem, Samaria, the Sharon, Galilee, and the Golan Heights constitute one entity, and it is a dangerous illusion to think or say that Israel will ever leave these areas. This will never happen." These remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday in an inaugural ceremony of the first Jewish college in Judaea and Samaria, located on a hill opposite Qedumim.

Shamir continued: "For many years, since the renewal of Jewish settlement in Eretz Yisra'el, we have been striving to achieve peace and are constantly calling on our neighbors to make peace. Today too, from this place, we are saying to them: The construction in this area, our establishing roots here, and the building of a new life are all an organic part of the peace and conditions for peace. In the framework of these conditions we are calling on all our neighbors to lead a life of peaceful coexistence between the Jewish and the Arab peoples in all parts of the Middle East. We must say this to our enemies and friends alike, and the more they understand this message and accept it, the better off we and they will be."

Knesset Member Yig'al Kohen-Orgad, chairman of the Judaea and Samaria College board of directors and one of its founders, noted that so far he has not encountered any government ministry which has tried to foil the establishment of the college because of its location. [passage omitted]

The Judaea and Samaria College started operating gradually and without publicity 4 years ago. Classes were held mostly during the evenings in school buildings in Judaea and Samaria settlements. At present the college offers classes in seven academic fields. It is mainly directed at adults who want to enrich their education.

No Outside Elements in West Bank, Gaza Unrest

TA201559 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
18 Oct 87 p 5

[Editorial: "Blame Only the Occupation"]

[Text] The Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were in a state of turmoil once again this past week. A total of eight people were killed, one of them a mother of eight children—an innocent bystander—and many more were injured and arrested.

Several families were in mourning and gloom pervaded the whole country. The unending occupation has claimed more Palestinian lives and brought more tragedies to an already disenfranchised people.

When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to pursue the Palestinian fighters there, it told the world that once the PLO was eliminated, peace and tranquility would return to the region. The PLO was forced out of Lebanon and its bases were weakened, but the region is still in turmoil as last week gave adequate proof.

Whenever there are protests in the occupied areas, Israel claims the PLO is behind them. It tries to justify popular discontent with its policies, and to be more exact, with its actual presence in the West Bank and Gaza, by blaming outside "agitators." When the PLO had offices in Jordan, Israel pressured Amman to close them. Amman complied and brought all Palestinian activity there to a halt. Yet the protests continue unabated even though the PLO offices are thousands of miles away.

There is no room to doubt then that the protests are not stirred up from outside, even though Palestinians in exile and those in the homeland share the same aspirations and dreams. They are a direct result of the occupation. This has already been said not only by Palestinians, but by Israelis as well. Israeli writers, politicians and the general public realize that demonstrations, stone throwing, knifings and all forms of local resistance are leading to a catastrophe. They express worry that the prolonged occupation is increasing hatred between Arabs and Jews rather than harmony and friendship.

Israeli officials keep talking about co-existence and improving the quality of life for Palestinians in the occupied areas. What they say is diametrically opposed

to their actions. What they say makes them look good to the world and to foreign dignitaries visiting the country who are never allowed to see the situation here as people really live it.

What the Israelis do is reflected in the popular upheavals which demand an end to the occupation. Only a person who refuses to see the problem can claim there is satisfaction with the way Israel is handling the situation here.

The truth remains that the occupation will never be accepted and neither will a solution which does not full-heartedly consider the Palestinian peoples' legitimate rights. This should be clear to Israeli officials and to anyone coming here with ideas for solving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We don't need more jargon. We need a real solution to the problem.

W. Bank Exporters Want Jerusalem EEC Office

TA181852 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Oct 87 p 3

[Report by Uri Nir]

[Text] The Association of Chambers of Commerce in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has applied to the EEC for permission to open a representation in East Jerusalem to facilitate commercial links between farmers and industrialists in the territories and the EEC.

The request was raised at a meeting held last weekend between members of the East Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce and the new Belgian consul general in Jerusalem. On behalf of his colleagues in the territories Fayiq Barakat, head of the East Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce, requested that the EEC open a bureau to act as a liaison between West Bank exporters and the EEC head offices in Europe. The Belgian consul promised to forward the request for consideration by the EEC bodies.

It may be recalled that during the visit to Israel 1 week ago of Claude Cheysson, EEC commissioner to the Middle East, it was agreed to set up new channels for the independent export of agricultural produce from the territories.

King Husayn Receives Shultz in London 19 Oct

JN200632 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] London—His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at his place of residence in London yesterday evening. During the meeting they fully reviewed the developments in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf. They also made a comprehensive evaluation of different regional and international issues. Shultz acquainted King Husayn with the results of his talks in the states he visited.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

2d Meeting Held

JN201747 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in London this morning for the second time. During the meeting the two sides completed the talks they held yesterday evening. These talks dealt with the Middle East issue and regional developments resulting from the prolongation of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Rumored Shultz 'Substitute Formula' Rejected

JN200826 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
20 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Minister of Information Muhammad al-Khatib said Monday Jordan rejects any attempt to substitute the framework of the proposed international peace conference with a new limited formula in which the Soviet Union will have a limited role.

In an interview with the French news agency (AFP) the minister said Jordan rejects any change in the framework of the conference in which all U.N. Security Council members along with all parties to the conflict should be participating on an equal footing.

Mr. al-Khatib was commenting on reports that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz had suggested to Israel that such a substitute formula should be considered over the Arab call for an international conference on the Middle East.

"Neither Israel nor the U.S. has the right to introduce any change in the official framework of the international conference as endorsed by the international community," Mr. al-Khatib was quoted as saying by AFP. He said a lasting and just peace could be reached only through the official framework of the international conference.

Shultz Visit Proof of 'Lukewarm' U.S. Stand

JN201225 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
20 Oct 87 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Unfruitful Visit"]

[Text] As expected, Secretary of State George Shultz has concluded his visit to Israel without being able to make Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir budge from his declared stand, which strongly rejects the principle of negotiations to end the Middle East conflict through an international conference to be attended by the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties involved in this conflict.

The truth is, Shultz himself did not expect his visit to produce any tangible progress toward promoting the stumbling peace in this part of the world. This prompts us to say that Shultz' conclusion was not a surprise to anybody inside or outside the Middle East.

There is no doubt that the lukewarm, hesitant U.S. stand on the issue of realizing peace through an international conference is responsible for the results of Shultz' visit, a visit which was preceded by Shamir's strong statements in which he refused to budge from his declared, intransigent stand on the issue of negotiations within the framework of an international conference to realize a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Hence, we can view Shultz' visit, which is a staging post on his way to Moscow, as a mere attempt to remind us of the mild U.S. interest in the issues of this region, which has seen many wasted opportunities to achieve progress on the road to peace. This is due to U.S. double standards and the subjugation of Washington policies to the dictat of Zionist groups in the United States.

While we view Shultz' visit as the best proof of the lukewarm U.S. interest in our just issues and its disregard of our legitimate rights, we hope the coming Arab summit will rectify matters and restore this nation's prestige, importance, and effectiveness on the map of international relations.

Husayn Receives USSR's Vorontsov in London

JN201742 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, in his majesty's residence in London today. They exchanged views on the possibilities of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East problem to be attended by all parties concerned, including the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, with the aim of settling the Arab-Israeli dispute and resolving the various aspects of the Palestinian problem.

They also discussed the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war, the dangers resulting from its continuation, its impact on Gulf states and international navigation, and the need to implement all provisions of Resolution No 598. The meeting also touched on some current international issues and problems of interest to both sides in light of the upcoming meeting between the U.S. and USSR leaders. Vorontsov conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn an invitation from the Soviet leadership to visit the Soviet Union before the end of this year. His majesty accepted the invitation.

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Foreign Minister

PM121055 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 2 Oct 87 pp 21-23

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] *Al-Hawadith*: Let us begin with the subject of the summit. There have been obstacles preventing it from being held until now. How were these obstacles eliminated? And what was the cost of having them eliminated?

Al-Masri: My assessment is that the situation in the Gulf and other regions has become very dangerous to the point that all those who believed that the time was not appropriate to hold a summit have now abandoned this thought. Of course everyone believes in the need for a summit to be held. But views differed over ways of holding it, issues to be discussed, and the circumstances surrounding it.

The prevailing view, causing the summit to be delayed for 4 years, calls for a suitable atmosphere and the elimination of differences before holding a summit. Of course the Iraqi-Syrian dispute has remained as it is. But dangers in the Gulf have increased in such a way that holding a summit has become a necessity. The discussions by the Arab League at the 20 September meeting resulted in a unanimous agreement that it should be held. This is what happened. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: On this basis I put to you the following question: Admittedly the summit is extraordinary, but will Jordan as the host country try to develop the agenda to include points that are usually discussed at ordinary summits?

Al-Masri: The extraordinary summit will not be able to discuss all the issues concerning Arab states. However, the Iraq-Iran war is the fundamental issue which will be discussed. This is in addition to the situation in the Middle East, that is the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Al-Hawadith: You kindly mentioned earlier that the Iraqi-Syrian dispute remains as it is. Is this dispute continuing, despite Jordanian efforts, because of the wide gulf in views which are difficult to bring closer? Or is it because of the failure of the methods of dialogue? And will there be a possibility of paving the way for some rapprochement through the summit?

Al-Masri: All that I can say in this respect is that in our opinion and assessment the presence of this number of Arab leaders, including Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad, at an Arab summit under these circumstances will constitute an opportunity which should spur on the elimination of these differences. As for what is going to happen, I cannot say.

Al-Hawadith: Jordan has played a role in bringing the Syrian and Iraqi presidents closer. If you could say what the important points of difference between Presidents Saddam and al-Asad are, what would you say?

Al-Masri: They relate to the nature of future relations between the two countries and Syria's position on the Iraq-Iran war. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Allow me, Your Excellency the Minister, to ask you about some events which happened before the summit: The Arab foreign ministers met and decided that a decisive stand must be adopted. They demanded a clarification of Iran's position on Resolution 598 and promised to reconsider relations with Iran on 20 September to take a decisive stand. They promised, threatened, warned, and then retreated in the name of the summit. Is this a postponement of a settlement?

Al-Masri: It could be called a postponement to discuss the nature of relations. However there were differing viewpoints. Some calls were made to make this summit the authority qualified to discuss this important issue. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: What is your opinion of the secretary general's report and its contents regarding Iraq's and Iran's comments to him?

Al-Masri: He conveyed what was said by both governments to him. Do you want him to add or subtract something? [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: What is your impression now: Will the Security Council immediately move to the second stage or will it give Iran another chance?

Al-Masri: What do you mean by immediately? Tomorrow?

Al-Hawadith: Yes, tomorrow.

Al-Masri: No; it will not move tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: The Iraqi position says that Iran is still continuing to procrastinate in order to gain time and that ...

Al-Masri: Of course it is continuing to procrastinate. This is true.

Al-Hawadith: The Iraqi position continues to say that Iran wants to gain time to prepare and launch a major offensive by the end of the year. If this, which coincides with international pressures on Iraq to stop the tanker war, proves to be true, will the Arab states adopt a spectator attitude?

Al-Masri: How can you say they will adopt a spectator attitude?

Al-Hawadith: I am talking about the joint defense pact.

Al-Masri: We are committed to it. Jordan is committed to it.

Al-Hawadith: Will you raise this issue at the next extraordinary summit?

Al-Masri: I do not know. I cannot say in detail what each individual will say. The main topic is the Iraq-Iran war, its consequences, and how to stop it as well as how to maneuver internationally. Under this topic we can include a hundred ideas. Surely the subject of commitment to the joint Arab defense pact is not a new subject. It is being raised and Iraq talks of it. Iraq is demanding that states sharing the same views on the war adhere to the pact. When a country like Jordan helps Iraq and supports it, when it defends Iraq, it is in fact expressing its commitment to the joint Arab defense pact. This is obvious.

Al-Hawadith: So far it is clear that the United States does not consider the Iranian response to Resolution 598, as revealed in the secretary general's report and the Iranian president's speech, a clear answer reflecting Iran's position on the resolution. Many of the Security Council's members did not express their opinion clearly. So what is your impression of the stands taken by countries like the Soviet Union and China for instance.

Al-Masri: None of the the Security Council's member states consider the Iranian response positive. Some do not even consider it a response. Some consider it half a response that can be developed into a positive one. But no one sides with Iran in respect of the nature of its response.

Al-Hawadith: Do you mean because Iran made it conditional that a committee should be first set up to investigate the responsibility for the conflicts and then issue its findings before Iran would accept a cease-fire?

Al-Masri: I mean when the secretary general returned to New York and presented his report, none of the Security Council's 15 states declared that Iran's response was positive. No, not one.

Al-Hawadith: It was the Soviet Union which said before the secretary general's visit to the region that it was premature to talk about sanctions.

Al-Masri: Because the Soviets want to give the secretary general more time to persuade Iran. Probably they also want to deal with Iran on this basis in order to persuade it to accept the Council's resolution.

Al-Hawadith: Is the Soviet stand still the same after the conclusion of the secretary general's visit? Do they still believe in adopting the same stand?

Al-Masri: I believe so. There are states in the Security Council which want some time to persuade Iran.

Al-Hawadith: We come then to the problem: Iraq says that giving Iran time is at the expense of Iraq, which is paying the price for this.

Al-Masri: Of course. Iraq says this and what it claims is true.

Al-Hawadith: So if Iraq's claim is true as you said, then the Soviets' request for more time to persuade Iran could reflect adversely on Iraq's interests. Is it not so?

Al-Masri: No. The Soviet Union has a viewpoint which we do not agree with, but the Soviet Union remains committed to putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war. It remains a friend of the Arabs. Differences do not mean enmity. We must convince the Soviet Union or others that our viewpoint is correct. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: After you read the speech delivered by Iranian President Khamene'i at the General Assembly, did you sense Iran's readiness to withdraw to international borders?

Al-Masri: Khamene'i did not reveal anything new in the Iranian position. In fact their position is still as intransigent. I do not believe his speech made the secretary general's mission any easier. It had no positive impact on any UN members.

Al-Hawadith: Before we talk about the U.S.-Iranian escalation, let us return to the Chinese. Do they admit that they sell missiles and arms to Iran?

Al-Masri: No comment.

Al-Hawadith: Regarding the U.S.-Iranian escalation, especially after the incident involving the ship which Iran claims was a commercial vessel, whereas the United States insisted it was laying mines, does this escalation stir up your concern about the possibility of the United States launching a strike against Iran?

Al-Masri: Why do you accuse the Americans of escalation? They caught that ship planting mines in sea lanes.

Al-Hawadith: All that I am asking is whether there is a danger of an escalation, without accusing one party or the other of instigating it.

Al-Masri: Of course there is undoubtedly a danger of a clash so long as all these fleets are present and so long as the Iranian speedboats are planting the sea with mines and launching attacks. What happened last week was a clash. How will it develop? I do not know. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: What is your opinion of the U.S., Soviet, and other pressures on Iraq to stop the tanker war at this stage? Are you discussing this point with these countries?

Al-Masri: Of course this issue is being raised. However the pressure on Iraq for this is not absolute and should cease in any case. This pressure was applied during a certain period when there was a cease-fire in preparation for implementing the Security Council resolution and during preparations for the secretary general's visit to the region and then during the actual visit. At that time some states wanted Iran to stop hitting tankers during this period, but not indefinitely.

Al-Hawadith: Let us return to the Amman summit. Will arrangements be made at the next summit for Egypt's return?

Al-Masri: Do you mean whether the issue of readmitting Egypt will be discussed? We hope so. But this subject might be postponed until the ordinary summit.

Al-Hawadith: Will this require a clarification from Egypt on what it wants from the Arab League or the member states of the Arab League?

Al-Masri: There are many Arab states which are ready to accept Egypt once again into the Arab League. Egypt is also ready to return to the Arab League.

Al-Hawadith: Regarding the international conference, U.S. Jewish groups have this week expressed their support for the idea of convening an international conference on the Middle East. How does this impact on the U.S. Administration, which is influenced by the stands adopted by U.S. Jews, as well as on dialogue inside Israel?

Al-Masri: Undoubtedly this decision is both good and courageous. It proves that the idea of an international conference is gaining friends daily, even among Jewish communities inside the United States. By taking such a decision this Jewish organization will not upset the balance of the international conference but will be a supportive factor. I believe it will strengthen Shim'on Peres' position in Israel in the face of Yitzhaq Shamir's rejection.

Al-Hawadith: At what stage is the international conference now?

Al-Masri: At the stage it was.

Al-Hawadith: Do you mean no progress has been made to push it forward?

Al-Masri: I mean the issue of an international conference is still valid but has been frozen because of Israeli rejection, U.S. preoccupation, and the lack of a U.S. decision on this issue. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Does Your Excellency mean that the Arab position is very clear regarding ...

Al-Masri: No. I do not mean that. Nor do I claim that the Arab position is unified or in agreement on all points. But it is also unrealistic for us to claim that all parties, Arabs or non-Arabs, have to agree on all details concerning the international conference. It is impossible to have all details agreed upon. Agreement can be reached on the main points which would enhance the idea of a conference. We believe that these points have been agreed upon.

Al-Hawadith: Does Syria agree with you on these points?

Al-Masri: Yes.

Al-Hawadith: Could you tell us what these points are?

Al-Masri: I will not mention these points. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Has the problem of Palestinian representation at the conference been resolved?

Al-Masri: When we say that Israel must accept [an international conference], this would include acceptance of Palestinian representation at the conference. We are still saying that PLO participation in the conference is essential.

Al-Hawadith: It is being reported that Jordan is working in consultation with the Palestinians toward bringing about another Palestinian leadership, not as an alternative to the PLO, but as a complementary leadership that would be able to participate in the conference. Is this true?

Al-Masri: If the PLO believes that selecting figures in this manner would facilitate this task, that is its own business. For our part, what we are saying in this regard is that an invitation should be sent to the PLO to attend the international conference.

Al-Hawadith: What if the PLO insisted on rejecting Resolution 242? Would this mean it would not participate in the conference?

Al-Masri: It is not Jordan, nor an international conference, nor I who determines whether or not the PLO should attend. I have views on the issue. I call for PLO

participation and for an invitation to be sent to it. I also call for its participation through a joint delegation. It is not I who determines whether or not the PLO should participate.

Al-Hawadith: Some believe the price of an international conference will be extensive Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel. First, would this be a reasonable price? Second, are the Arab states, Jordan in particular, discussing the question of Jewish emigration to Israel with Soviet officials? Do the Arab states not oppose this?

Al-Masri: We do not approve of this. I believe the subject has been exaggerated. I do not believe the Soviet Union acts or wants to act in a way that would harm its relations with the Arab states and the peace process. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja' Comments on Reelection of Al-Husayni

NC210923 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Report on news conference by Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces, on 20 October on the reelection of Husayn al-Husayni as speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; place not given]

[Excerpts] Responding to questions concerning the Lebanese Forces' participation in the election battle for the speakership of the Chamber of Deputies, the manner in which the Lebanese Forces ran the campaign, and the relationship between the Lebanese Forces and the deputies of the Chamber, Dr Samir Ja'ja' stated:

[Begin recording] [Ja'ja'] Such a report is very far from the truth, very far from what actually happened. We did not enter an election campaign. The campaign took place inside the Chamber of Deputies, not inside the Lebanese Forces Command Council, the Lebanese Front, the National Liberal Party, or the Phalangist party—indeed, not in the liberated areas. To say that the Lebanese Forces waged a losing campaign is not correct. What we were involved in was the adoption of a political stand within the context of our general stance. We feel that such a stance is sufficient and we will continue to adhere to it as long as matters remain as they are and do not move in a direction that might bring some breakthrough.

I want to make this clear from the start. The election campaign which took place in the Chamber of Deputies was carried out by the deputies themselves. They bear the consequences. I believe there are 51 deputies who accept everything that Speaker al-Husayni has been doing for an entire year. They have now given him carte blanche to do everything he wants for the next 1 or 2 years. This means there are 51 deputies who accept the boycott [of the president] which Al-Husayni supports. In effect, these 51 deputies agree not to take the government to account. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Fifty-one deputies elected Al-Husayni. However, 15 deputies turned in blank votes. What does this indicate, in view of the fact that there was only one candidate? What is the significance of 15 blank votes primarily cast by deputies from the western areas, not from the eastern areas?

[Ja'ja'] We take pride in the fact that of the 15 blank votes, most were cast by deputies from the western areas. This means that there are 15 deputies who are still able to shoulder their responsibility no matter how dear the price they have to pay. It also means there are 15 deputies who truly represent the people.

[Correspondent] Do we know who they are?

[Ja'ja'] Yes, we know who they are. Now, I want to make one small remark. No decision was ever made to cast blank votes, neither in the meeting which was held yesterday nor outside the meeting. I want to repeat: Those 15 blank votes were made solely on the initiative of their owners. No decision to cast blank votes was made during yesterday's meeting, nor at the meeting which preceded it. During yesterday's meeting, it became apparent that most deputies preferred that the deputies and blocs be free to adopt the stand they saw appropriate. Is this clear? I believe it is. Thus, 15 deputies made individual decisions. Many of them are from the western area, which is an honorable thing.

[Correspondent] Perhaps one may leave this news conference with the impression that there is something akin to a break between the Lebanese Forces and the deputies who met with you yesterday.

[Ja'ja'] No, this is not true. There is a difference of views with some of them. This is true, very true. There is a difference of opinion, a difference in our separate ways of looking at things. We must not try to hide matters which must not be hidden to begin with. This matter is known from our stand and proposals, and from the stand and proposals of every individual. But it is not true to say there is a break. We want to continue to use dialogue, intellectual debate, and intellectual conflict if you prefer to put it this way. I am saying intellectual. This intellectual conflict is the best type of conflict in the world, and indeed the sharpest and most violent. Therefore, we intend to continue to use such methods until we reach a minimum of understanding with them. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Libya's Beirut Bureau Cancels Arab Entry Visas

NC210847 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] The Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Beirut has announced the cancellation of entry visas to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, noting that Arab citizens are now entitled to enter the Jamahiriyah without a visa.

Junblatt Meets Birri, Departs for Damascus

NC210632 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Excerpts] PSP leader Walid Junblatt and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri met at [former Minister] Marwan Hamadah's residence last night. Also present at the meeting were Marwan Hamadah, Muhsin Dallul, Muhammad Baydun, and Akram Shuhayyib. The conferees discussed the situation in Lebanon and the ways to mobilize efforts through the Unification and Liberation Front to achieve the following objectives:

First: To solidify the national and Islamic areas to confront the war of starvation launched by the regime and the Lebanese Forces against the Lebanese people.

Second: To adopt a unified position on the issue of the teachers strike and the call for an open strike by the General Labor Federation scheduled for 5 November.

Third: To adopt a unified standpoint regarding the regime's policies and to prepare a Lebanese national file to be presented at the forthcoming Arab summit scheduled to convene in Amman.

Fourth: To stress Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's initiative to end the camps war and the need to expedite its implementation, thus ending the stalemate that this initiative has reached. [passage omitted]

In another development, the Unification and Liberation Front is expected to hold a meeting this afternoon to discuss the implementation of the steps agreed upon in last night's meeting.

Minister Walid Junblatt, who left for Damascus last night, will hold talks with Syrian officials on the topics which were discussed during his meeting with Nabih Birri.

Fatah Claims Birri Preparing New Attacks

NC210833 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Amal and the Palestinians exchanged rocket and machinegun fire on the combat lines east of Sidon throughout last night.

'Abd al-Mu'ti Abu Yasir, the Fatah military official in Sidon, expressed pessimism over the situation east of the city. He described all of the meetings being held in this regard as a waste of time. He declared that Minister Nabih Birri's initiative on the camps is a political maneuver to gain time. The Fatah military official also disclosed that Birri has issued orders to prepare for a new round of fighting in the camps and Sidon within a week. Abu Yasir noted that during this new round of clashes, attacks will be concentrated on Hayy al-Salam in Maghdushah so that Birri may be able to achieve a moral blow against Sidon and tighten his grip on 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

Abu Yasir advised Minister Birri and his gunmen not to get involved in such a battle as the price will be very dear.

Mustafa Sa'd Interviewed on Camps War Issue

NC211227 Beirut MONDAY MORNING inEnglish19-25 Oct pp 18-19

[Interview with Mustafa Sa'd, secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization, by unidentified *Monday Morning* staff reporter "last week;" place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] Do you think that the latest military escalation in the vicinity of Sidon is aimed at boosting 'Arafat's position in the forthcoming Arab summit conference to be held in Amman next month?

[Sa'd] The latest explosion that took place in east Sidon was due to two factors: (1) The war of the camps did not subside, and a solution to this war was not reached. This created lack of confidence and fear between the two sides to the conflict. (2) The suspension of meetings between the delegation of the Front for Unification and Liberation and the unified Palestinian delegation, which used to be held at my residence, and which led to the agreement of September 11, 1987.

Due to the misinterpretation of this agreement, obstacles emerged leading to increased tension which we witnessed last week. These two factors could be exploited by Yasir 'Arafat, who is seeking higher "visibility" in advance of the Arab summit in Amman through this escalation. I can confirm that some are trying to keep the camp war issue on the front burner and to obstruct any settlement that may be reached. Such efforts are confessional in inspiration, and they only serve the Zionist enemy. Behind these two factors we see the Israeli enemy's hand, working to bring about the "security measures" it hopes for.

[Reporter] Which side is rejecting the implementation of Minister Birri's initiative?

[Sa'd] I have already declared that those harmed whether on the Palestinian scene or on the Lebanese one are numerous. Some of them believe that the war of the camps constitutes a pretext for them to be involved directly in the Lebanese political situation following which they will return to participate in the Lebanese national decision.

Others see in the war of the camps an introduction to impose their confessional methods on the Lebanese scene in order to influence the formation and implementation of the political decision, through confessional mobilization in the area. As for Minister Birri's initiative which was adopted by the Front for Unification and Liberation, and through which the agreement of September 11, 1987 was reached, we notice that interaction with this initiative was twofold. Everybody approved this agreement and was trying to implement it verbally, including the parties to the conflict. These parties were also obstructing the implementation of the agreement through setting obstacles with respect to humanitarian and social issues, as well as with respect to priorities to which comes first construction or withdrawal?

[Reporter] You have said that if Minister Birri's initiative was not implemented, a great explosion will occur. In such an event, do you think it will spread to all the Palestinian camps in Lebanon?

[Sa'd] Yes, I have declared that there is no alternative to the implementation of the agreement reached, except the great explosion that will affect everybody. I still maintain this point. The latest clash witnessed in east Sidon between the Amal Movement positions and Palestinian positions are a proof of this. If the agreement is not

implemented, battles will spread to all regions where the parties to the conflict exist. Thus everybody should not resort to maneuvers. They should have mercy on the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples to avoid facing the catastrophe that will definitely terminate the nationalist cause and will put an end to the common strife of the two peoples. Or else the issue of the liberation of the South will be dropped and with it the Palestinian struggle will lose its essence.

[Reporter] Where does the People's [Popular] Liberation Army stand amidst military developments in east Sidon? Is this force standing with the Palestinians against Amal or vice versa?

[Sa'd] For three years and until today the People's Liberation Army has been confronting the enemy on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, 'Ayn al-Mir front. When it was asked to take other positions, it used to do so in order to provide links between the nationalist and Palestinian forces.

The latest dispute that took place last week with brothers in the Amal Movement following the attack on positions of the People's Liberation Army was not in favor of the Palestinians, nor in hatred of the Movement. It was only in defense of the front where we have been stationed for three years. Anyone is allowed to object as he wishes, and anyone is allowed to open fire on us wherever he likes except on this front which is to us very sacred, because it is a guarantee to the solidarity of the south and to the victory of the Resistance. We have always supported the unity among the struggling Palestinians and Lebanese, and on this basis we shall not take part in this struggle, which we consider as a conspiracy against the nationalist issues. We are with both the Amal Movement and the Palestinians in their rejection of a return to pre-1982 conditions. So let it be clear to everybody and let everybody understand the importance of our stand.

[Reporter] Do you still reject holding meetings with representatives of the Palestinians and of Amal?

[Sa'd] Until now, I maintain my stand rejecting the sponsorship of all meetings between the delegation of the Unification and Liberation Front, and the unified Palestinian delegation, more precisely between the Amal Movement and the unified Palestinian delegation. This stand is the outcome of a nationalist understanding in which I believe. I am ready to sponsor such meetings, provided they are intended to enforce the accord, stressing the importance of good intentions and seriousness with respect to implementation. These two conditions are frankly addressed to Amal and to the unified Palestinian delegation.

[Reporter] What is your stand regarding certain factions which send recruits to Libya to fight against Chad?

[Sa'd] I am a Lebanese Arab nationalist citizen, and believe that we are one nation from the ocean to the Gulf and we have a single enemy who is the Zionist enemy, his masters and his agents.

Defending Libya and the Libyan people is defending the whole Arab nation. I here declare that it is much better to send fighters to defend the Arab soil in Libya, than to send them to fight in the streets of Lebanon. Besides, when we fight the Zionist enemy on the Kafr Falus front or along the occupied border strip through the Lebanese nationalist resistance, then we would be defending this nation.

[Reporter] Following the latest developments in east Sidon how do you describe your relation with Minister Nabih Birri?

[Sa'd] The relation with Brother Nabih Birri was and will remain to be positive and good in spite of certain conflicts which may take place between now and then. This personal relation which we care very much to maintain with Minister Birri whom we deeply respect, is important because it can play an important role in bringing closer the various points of view.

Our common stand on the political level is also important. We are trying very hard to establish a stable and firm relation with the Amal Movement based on Arabism, democracy and nationalist basis in view of the fact that we are members of the same cause, belong to one nation and belong to the some region, the south, for which Martyr Ma'ruf Saud sacrificed his blood and Imam Musa Sadr provided his knowledge and efforts. The Lebanese nationalist resistance has given a lot too.

We look for a relation with Amal unmarred by factionalism. When we differ with Amal over the war of the camps, and its stand regarding the nationalist resistance and its solidarity, we become sure, with Minister Birri and with Amal, of our enmity to the Zionist enemy and the local Zionists, and exert efforts to establish a nation of justice and Arabism in Lebanon.

60,000 Teachers Begin Indefinite Strike 20 Oct

NC201348 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Some 60,000 teachers began an indefinite strike today in response to a call by the Teachers Union. The strike was staged in support of the teachers' demands to improve their financial situation.

Further on Visit by Iranian Prime Minister

Final Talks Held

JN201220 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Excerpts] At 0930 today, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and they held a closed meeting.

At 1000, the Syrian Arab side led by Prime Minister Dr al-Kasm and the Iranian side led by Prime Minister Musavi held the closing session of Syrian-Iranian talks in the presence of the members of the Syrian Arab and Iranian delegations. During this session, the work of the three committees and the results of their deliberations were evaluated.

These deliberations covered the areas of economic cooperation, trade and tourist exchange, and issues related to the cultural and information cooperation. The two sides stressed the need to bolster bilateral cooperation against imperialism and Zionism and their conspiratorial steps against the Arab nation and the Islamic world.

Musavi extended an official invitation to Dr al-Kasm to visit Iran. Dr al-Kasm gratefully accepted the invitation with the understanding that the date of the visit will be fixed at a later time. [passage omitted]

At 1300 today, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus following a 3-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm led those who saw him off at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

IRNA Report on Talks

LD201629 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, Oct 20, IRNA—The last round of talks between visiting Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm was held here Tuesday with the two sides underlining the need for the struggle against imperialism.

Premier Musavi in reference to the U.S. naval attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf Monday described it as a step by the U.S. towards a full-scale war and the escalation of regional tension.

In military terms the U.S. aggression on the platforms was of no significance, said Musavi, adding it was aimed at redeeming Washington's lost prestige and boosting the sagging morale of its regional lackeys.

The Islamic Republic will give a suitable response to the U.S. impudence, Musavi said. He warned that regional nations by their struggles will eventually drive the U.S. out of the Persian Gulf.

In response, the Syrian premier, castigating the [words indistinct], said Washington aggression on Iran is an aggression on all peace loving people of the world.

The U.S. Administration's lame excuse of guaranteeing regional security is not justifiable because the security of the Persian Gulf before the arrival of U.S. military forces was much better than it is now, he said.

Reiterated Al-Kasm, just as the U.S. suffered defeats in Vietnam and Lebanon it will be defeated in Iran. The Syrian prime minister also pledged that his country has sided with Iran and will continue to stand by it.

Musavi arrived in Damascus Sunday along with a number of high-ranking officials.

Meets Palestinians, Lebanese

LD201713 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, Oct. 20, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi conferred with several Palestinian officials at the Iranian Embassy here Monday on issues concerning Palestine. Stressed at the meeting was the need for unity among all combatant forces fighting Zionism and the U.S.

Head of the Palestinian National Assembly Khalid al-Fahum said the recent mobilization of dozens of U.S. and Western fleets has been unprecedented in history. This, he added, proves fear of global arrogance and colonialism from the powerful movement of Muslims.

Also speaking at the meeting was secretary-general of the Palestinian faction 'Revolutionary Fatah,' who said his group understands the Islamic Republic's preparedness against the U.S. plots. "We are sure that this irreconcilable Islamic power can give a suitable answer to the U.S.," he added.

In response, Musavi said the issue of Palestine concerns all Muslims who resist till all the occupied regions of the usurped lands will be liberated.

Stressing on irreconcilability vis-a-vis aggression, the premier said the Islamic Republic's authorities will never compromise with the enemy, and the Iranian nation never yield to pressures. "Moreover, the Iranian people will never forgive any compromisers," he emphasised.

Adverting to the aggression committed by the warmongering regime of Iraq, the prime minister termed the aggressive U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf as a new attempt by global arrogance to save Saddam (Husayn).

The very fact that at a time when its fleets are trying to attack the Islamic Republic, Washington has granted the Baghdad regime a one-billion-dollar aid suggests that the Iraqi regime is a U.S. puppet, noted Musavi.

In another development, Premier Musavi held talks with Lebanon's Islamic Movements' officials and theologians separately, including Hizballah, Islamic Resistance, Amal Movement, as well as leader of the Islamic Tawhid Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban on various issues of the Lebanese people and plots hatched by enemies in the region. Musavi arrived here Sunday at the head of a delegation for a three-day visit.

Talas Delivers Speech on Air Force Anniversary
JN162022 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Excerpts] On the 41st anniversary of the inception of the Air Force and Air Defense, various formations of the Air Force and Air Defense celebrated this glorious occasion by erecting decorations and hoisting flags, banners, and portraits of his excellency struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. They also hoisted placards on which appropriate nationalist and pan-Arab slogans were written. Sports contests and military parades were also held on this occasion.

The commanders met with the combatants at rallies where they expressed their happiness on this anniversary and also their determination to continue training and preparations to preserve the eternal spirit of the October war and confront anyone who harbors any intention to undermine the homeland's security, pride, and dignity.

A large celebration was held on this occasion at one of our Air Force bases under the patronage of General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister. The celebration was attended by the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense and a large number of officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted personnel of the Air Force and Air Defense. [passage omitted]

Amidst a tumultuous storm of applause and chants praising our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and its secretary general, struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Talas delivered a speech. He began by conveying the congratulations of his excellency the president to the combatants on this glorious anniversary and also his best wishes of success in the performance of their sacred tasks, which they have been carrying out in the best possible manner in defense of the Arab nation and its fateful issues so that they may be protected from the forces of evil and aggression.

Gen Talas then explained the political and military situation in the region and refuted the enemy's allegations and false claims. He asserted that all the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary moves being carried out in the Arab arena by Washington, Tel Aviv, Saddam Husayn, Mubarak, and 'Arafat seek to undermine the Arab nation and make it submit to imperialist hegemony, to peddle the Camp David accords, and to liquidate the Palestine question, our central and basic cause, in favor of Israel at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people who have been revolting and standing steadfast in the occupied Arab territories. They have also been rejecting the conspiracy and condemning the occupation and those who stand behind the occupation—those who have chosen to sell themselves to the United States and Israel and to carry out their instructions.

In his speech to the combatants, Gen Talas asserted that the fact that this celebration is taking place on this base, once commanded by the first pilot, his excellency struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, means that there is a determination to continue his march and also that there is a reiteration that our Air Force and Air Defense units will remain faithful to his principles, anxious to carry out his instructions, and also ready to make dear sacrifices so that our skies can remain ours and impregnable to others.

Gen Talas pointed out that Syria will confront the conspiracy that seeks to tear Lebanon away. He said that this conspiracy which is being hatched by imperialism—coordinated with Israel, 'Arafat, and the forces of agentry—is doomed to failure. He added that the Syrian Arab presence in Lebanon will remain positive and effective until Lebanon regains its health.

Gen Talas exposed the U.S. scheme in the Gulf region and Saddam Husayn's role in implementing Washington's scheme, which seeks to encircle the Iranian revolution and the Arab region and push our people into capitulation. He affirmed that no matter how the United States masses fleets and no matter how strenuous Saddam Husayn's attempts in this regard may prove to be, the victory at last will be the lot of the steadfast Arab people. He added that the U.S. Administration will not be able to stop the Arab revolutionary tide, no matter how expensive the sacrifices.

Talas added: Syria's decision to attend the Arab summit in Amman is prompted by its firm principles and noble objectives, which stipulate that Arab solidarity is an indispensable necessity in these circumstances, as it will help rally Arab capabilities and available potentials in favor of the confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught to which our Arab region is being subjected.

Ending his speech, Gen Talas saluted the combatants and hoped they would always remain, as our Arab masses have always known them to be, faithful soldiers and Hafiz al-Asad's instruments of realizing our people's objectives of achieving victory and liberation.

At the end of the celebration, the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense presented Gen Talas with a souvenir to express their thanks and confirm the march of steadfastness and confrontation that our Army has pledged to uphold under his excellency struggler President Hafiz al-Asad while our fighter planes were carrying

out a splendid air show over the base. Various types of planes and helicopters participated in the air show. Gen Talas left the celebration after the usual ceremonies were performed.

Al-Shar' on Peace Conference, Arab Summit

JN090810 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 7 Oct 87 p 19

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Thurayya 'Asi in New York; date not given]

[Text] *Al-Khalij*: Let us begin our dialogue with your contacts with heads of delegations in the United Nations' hallways. Do you believe new vistas have been opened for convening an international Middle East peace conference?

Al-Shar': The convening of an international conference seems to be close and remote at the same time. The truth is that Israel does not want a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. That is why Israel either rejects an international conference in principle or seeks to convene it as an umbrella for bilateral negotiations without any prerogatives. In both instances, we view the Israeli stand as one that rejects an international conference and the attainment of a just peace in our region.

Israel bases this stand on the premise that it claims it possesses rights to Arab territory despite the fact that these claims conflict with international law and the UN Charter. Israel acts within the framework of its known strategy of establishing Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. Israel also seeks to impose its hegemony on the peoples and countries in the region. As Arabs, we must remain alert to this Zionist scheme. We must do our best to mobilize Arab resources, unite Arab ranks, and achieve a real and effective Arab solidarity to confront the Zionist schemes.

Al-Khalij: U.S. envoys visited Syria and held talks with you on Middle East affairs, the Gulf war, and the Lebanese crisis. You also met here in New York with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and other U.S. officials. Have these meetings had any positive impact on U.S.-Syrian relations that could activate the convocation of an international conference?

Al-Shar': First, I would like to state that Syria will never agree to a dialogue with the United States unless it takes a position between equal sides. This is our principled stand.

We have just begun this dialogue and it is difficult to predict its results at present. We hope this dialogue will produce positive results in the interest of our various Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, it is necessary to say at this stage that there is still a great distance between the U.S. stand and the Syrian Arab stand on the role of an international conference and the prerogatives it must enjoy to attain a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

The United States still adopts the Israeli viewpoint that the international conference should only be an umbrella for bilateral negotiations that will not necessarily lead to the liberation of all of the occupied Arab territories and the attainment of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights.

Al-Khalij: Charles Redman has stated that during your meeting with Shultz, the latter asked to expel Abu Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] group from Al-Biqa'. How true is this?

Al-Shar': We discussed the Lebanese crisis with Shultz and we expressed our principled viewpoint, which is the need to achieve a Lebanese national accord used for solving all pending Lebanese problems.

Al-Khalij: A date for the Arab summit was set following the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis. Syria declared it would not attend if the summit confined its discussions to the Gulf war. Do you expect the summit to be held without Syria, and what are the issues Syria intends to present at it?

Al-Shar': Experience has shown that any summit in which Syria does not actively participate does not realize its aims. We in Syria have clear, definite views on all major issues that interest the Arab nation. As a major confrontational state facing the Zionist enemy, the historical enemy of the Arab nation, Syria has the right to continually draw our Arab brothers' attention to the dangers of Arab complacency in the face of this enemy and to attempts aimed at diverting our minds and dragging us into side struggles and hostilities. Therefore, we stress the priority of the Arab-Israeli struggle. At the same time, we do not belittle the importance of other disputes that face our nation, such as the Gulf war.

Therefore, our position is based on our firm conviction that dealing with the tense Gulf situation should not drag us into confronting Iran but should be within the framework of an Arab desire to establish equitable, good-neighborly relations between the Arab countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran. This, in a nutshell, is our position as it was presented at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis. This stand does not rule out a discussion of the Iraq-Iran war. Our stand places this war in its natural position on the agenda for the upcoming emergency Arab summit in Amman.

Al-Khalij: In a statement to this newspaper, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that Libya is the only state qualified to mediate between Iraq and Iran and that he is exerting intensive efforts in this regard. What is your opinion on this?

Al-Shar': We are not against any efforts to mediate with the aim of stopping the bloodshed in the Gulf. We hope God will speed up these endeavors and make Col al-Qadhdhafi's efforts a success.

Al-Khalij: King Husayn recently visited Syria. Did he visit Syria to convince it to attend the conference since the summit will be held in Amman or did he come in connection with mediation between Syria and Iraq?

Al-Shar': We in Syria are satisfied with the development of relations between ourselves and fraternal Jordan. We believe that any meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn will contribute toward promoting these relations. Naturally, his majesty the king and the president discussed all major Arab issues that are usually discussed when they meet. It is also natural that discussions between these two fraternal countries should concentrate primarily on the Arab-Israeli struggle and the threats posed by the expansionist, aggressive Israeli policy.

Al-Khalij: How does Syria evaluate Gulf developments in view of the tense situation and the presence of U.S. and Western naval forces? How does this situation affect Syria's position toward the war and the warring parties?

Al-Shar': We from the start expressed our concern over the presence of foreign naval forces in the Gulf. This is because we are convinced that these forces will further complicate the situation and create a state of extreme tension that might lead to the war's expansion instead of its curbing. If this situation persists, it may create a situation in which threats to the region's states might worsen.

Over the past years, Syria exerted persistent efforts to prevent the war's expansion and the involvement of other countries in it. Our efforts succeeded to a great extent. However, following the presence of this large number of U.S. and Western warships, no one can now claim that the region has not entered a new stage fraught with perils whose consequences, reactions, and repercussions for the security and stability of the region's Arab countries cannot be predicted.

From the premise of our concern for the security of the fraternal Arab countries in the Gulf region, we have warned against the eventual dangers and explicitly called for the withdrawal of all foreign fleets. We also reaffirmed the freedom of international navigation for all countries and acted within an Arab context to prevent this war's expansion.

Al-Khalij: On the basis of your close relations with Libya, how should the Chadian issue be solved?

Al-Shar': We believe the Chadian issue should be settled within an OAU framework and not within the framework of the United Nations or any other organization.

Al-Khalij: Is there something new in Syria's relationship with the PLO, particularly following reports that contacts took place for resuming dialogue? Have these contacts produced positive results in view of the talk about an international conference and the possibilities of its convocation?

Al-Shar': There is nothing new in this respect. There is no change in our stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the means that will secure the liberation of the occupied Arab territories as well as the recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights. We are convinced that the two sides in Israel do not want to recognize the Palestinian people's rights. The present dispute in Israel does not revolve around whether to give up the occupied Arab territories.

The real dispute is between those who want to wrest an official Arab signature on a document under which we would give up most of the occupied Arab territories and the usurped Palestinian rights, and those who do not want to admit that there is an occupation and that there are Palestinian rights, whether usurped or not.

That's why I can say that a real assessment of Israel's intentions must be based on these facts and not on illusions or the specific interests some harbor or seek to attain to justify their support for or dealings with Israel. The Tel Aviv rulers reject an international conference and reject peace. This is the essence of their policies.

Al-Khalij: New stands by President Amin al-Jumayyil emerged during his speech to the [UN] General Assembly on the Syrian presence in Lebanon. How do you view this development in relations between the two countries in light of the Lebanese president's speech?

Al-Shar': Syrian-Lebanese ties are based on the links of kinship and common history in addition to their interests, security, and destiny, which can only be regarded as common issues. For its part, Syria will spare no effort or sacrifice to help the Lebanese brothers end their nightmare. Here, I must say that the assassination of the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami—who was a man of dialogue and national accord as I said in my speech to the UN General Assembly—has deprived the Lebanese Government of much confidence held in it by other Lebanese parties.

It is regrettable that the Lebanese Government is working not to reveal the identity of the assassins and those behind them. It is also regrettable that this government has not tried to benefit, in the way it should have benefited, from our great support and from the huge sacrifices we offered to it with the aim of seriously and genuinely working to save Lebanon from fighting and chaos, and also with the aim of putting Lebanon anew on the path to dialogue and accord.

Here I take this opportunity to once again hail the role of the brave Lebanese resistance and also to assert that Syria will not discontinue its support for this resistance until the last inch of occupied Lebanese territory is liberated.

Al-Khalij: Your security plan in Beirut was scheduled to include the southern suburb but this has not happened. How do you view the fact that the security plan stopped at Beirut's western boundaries and on the coastal line?

Al-Shar': The drawing up of new security plans or embarking on partial solutions here or there are now out of question. What is required is to work to find a comprehensive solution to the overall Lebanese situation. We believe this cannot be achieved except through the attainment of a national acccord and through the Israeli forces' full withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

Al-Khalij: The Lebanese people have proved they are a people of resistance. Do you think the experience of national resistance in Lebanon will be an example in the Arab arena, which aspires to the liberation of Palestine?

Al-Shar': In my speech to the UN General Assembly I emphasized Syria's continued support for the Lebanese resistance until the last inch of Lebanese territory occupied by Israel is liberated. I also pointed out that Israel's invasion of Lebanon sustained a bitter defeat thanks to the Lebanese resistance and to Syrian support for this resistance. Moreover, I said Israel's bitter experience in Lebanon will continue to be an annoying nightmare for the Israelis for many years to come.

We also ask since the Lebanese people have managed to stand firm in the face of Israel, why then do some parties belittle our Arab nation and why are comments calling for despair in resisting the Israeli occupation reported by some Arab news media?

PLO's Bal'awi Visits Damascus, Meets Khaddam

JN200819 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct (WAKH)—Press reports indicated here today that Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis, visited Damascus 4 days ago, carrying a message from Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad which included responses to Syrian inquiries in previous messages.

Citing well-informed sources in Damascus, the Abu Dhabi newspaper *Al-Ittihad* noted that Bal'awi spent one night in Damascus during which he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

The sources termed the dispatch of Bal'awi to Damascus as reflecting 'Arafat's interest in normalizing Syrian-Palestinian relations. The sources added that the contacts between the two sides have, so far, not yielded tangible positive results.

Mashariqah Meets Hungarian PPF Delegation

JN181635 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus—A meeting was held on the premises of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] between an NPF delegation led by Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and NPF deputy chairman, and a delegation from Hungary's Patriotic People's Front [PPF] led by PPF Secretary Robert Ribanszki.

The delegations reviewed existing ties of cooperation between the two friendly countries and fronts. They also exchanged views on development and mass action in the two countries.

Mashariqah lauded relations between Syria and Hungary and emphasized the need to develop these relations to further the interests of both countries and the common struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Mashariqah reviewed the NPF's role in national and pan-Arab action under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and the situaton in the area.

The leader of the Hungarian delegation reviewed the PPF's activities and Hungary's policy in support of Arab causes.

Khaddam Receives Delegation

JN191432 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, 19 Oct. (SANA)—At noon today Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received the Hungarian Patriotic People's Front [PPF] delegation, led by PPF Secretary Robert Ribanzki. Discussions ranged over Mideast and international developments as well as bilateral ties.

Legislature To Discuss Ministers' Actions

JN161245 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 14 Oct 87 pp 1, 20

[By As'ad al-Samman]

[Text] Speculations and rumors have been rife for months in Syrian political circles on the imminent resignation of Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm's government in view of the economic situation and the increase in prices of consumer goods, particularly foodstuffs. These rumors and speculations have also been generated by the accusations of unjust enrichment leveled against several ministers and ranking officials. The cases brought against some ranking officials and their subsequent convictions substantiated these rumors.

These rumors peaked early this month when political circles said that Dr al-Kasm will tender his government's resignation before the opening of the sixth People's Assembly session on 7 October, not to mention that

several of the ministers who were the topic of these rumors expressed the desire to resign so as not to face the People's Assembly. They do not want to have the same fate as that of their colleague former Agriculture Minister Dr Mahmud al-Kurdi.

The People's Assembly had interrogated Dr al-Kurdi. The interrogation was substantiated with documents and evidence as a result of which he was brought to trial and is now serving his sentence in the Madra prison. A few days ago he suffered kidney inflammation and was hospitalized.

The ministers who have expressed the desire to resign are Tourism Minister Dr Nawras al-Daqr, Finance Minister Dr Qahtan al-Suyufi, Industry Minister 'Ali al-Tarabulsi, Riyad al-Haj Khalil, the supply and internal trade minister, and Electricity Minister Kamil al-Baba.

When People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Assembly members became aware of this trick they expressed their desire to Dr al-Kasm to postpone the resignation of his government because they want to confront the ministers while they are still in their posts. They argued that it will be useless to confront them following their resignation and that they do not want to be accused of having attacked them when weak and thus make them appear to be victims.

Dr al-Kasm was convinced by this argument. He also did not want his relations with the People's Assembly speaker and members to worsen because he aspires to be at the head of the new government.

Al-Siyasah asked a parliamentary source who is familiar with the course of events on whether a gentlemen's agreement was concluded between Dr al-Kasm and People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi in this respect. The source confirmed this and added that the People's Assembly wants to exercise its duties.

People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi was explicit on this issue at the opening of the new People's Assembly session. He said: By seeking to exercise our role of popular supervision, we are carrying out a sacred and natural role as well as our duty as stipulated in the Constitution and the People's Assembly's bylaws. He added: We are guided in this by the directives of our leader and president, Hafiz al-Asad, the resolutions of the Ba'th Party congresses, and the directives of the National Progressive Front.

He said: We carry out our duty objectively to seek facts. We do so also to achieve the interests of our toiling masses by removing all the obstacles that obstruct our integrated development march and the establishment of a socialist society.

The parliamentary source also told *Al-Siyasah* that the first meetings of the People's Assembly were devoted to the election of the members of the People's Assembly bureau and committees. The source added that the committees will begin the discussion of the reports on the ministers' activities on Sunday, 11 October, and that 16 important reports on several ministries which provide services to the public will be discussed.

Sources close to some ministers have told *Al-Siyasah* that the ministers would have preferred that the government resign before the People's Assembly session to avoid scorching accusations similar to those leveled against their colleague Mahmud al-Kurdi. The ministers admit that some mistakes have been committed in their ministries but that they had not been made with bad intentions.

Paper Says Iraqi Regime 'Part' of U.S. 'Game'

JN160737 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Oct 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Concerning U.S. intentions and the Iraqi regime's role, the newspaper *Al-Ba'th* says in its editorial today:

At present, U.S. diplomacy is doing its best to obliterate a number of international issues which affect peace by intensifying the situation in the Gulf so that the whole West will be allowed to be a partner in the war alongside the Iraqi regime.

A statement by a senior Iraqi official to the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas* gives clear proof that the Iraqi regime has been a major part of the U.S. game ever since this regime began its war against the Iranian revolution. Otherwise, what is the meaning of statements by this Iraqi official to the effect that his regime's relationship with the United States has shifted from tactical to constant and strategic planning?

A fiercer round of war has begun. Its parties have converged to clearly express the secret of the war waged by the Baghdad ruler. This war is meant not only to set fire to Iran and Iraq, but also to undermine the Arab nation's objectives and its aspirations for liberating the usurped Arab soil in Palestine, the Golan, and southern lebanon.

Afghanistan

Activities, Speeches at PDPA Conference

Wakil on Foreign Relations

LD210844 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 20, *Bakhtar*—The main directions of the foreign policy of the DRA, putting into practice international aspects of national reconciliation, the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, and the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan are under constant control of the party and state leadership, said 'Abdul Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs at the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA here on Monday.

'Abdul Wakil said further that as a result of the entire course of its historic development and traditions, Afghanistan has been and will always be a country with national sovereignty, independent, neutral and active member of the Non-Aligned Movement. These principles have been by now precisely reflected and enshrined in the draft constitution of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Our world, compared to the previous decades is being radically changed. Today there is no more urgent task than the efforts for annihilation of deadly weapons, curbing the arms race and ensuring a universal security system. Prevention of nuclear weapons deployment, particularly in outer space and sea-beds, as well as fighting against war-mongering doctrines—all these can reduce the danger of drawing the world to the brink of a nuclear conflict.

We support decisively and principledly the proposals of the Soviet Union concerning the creation of a universal international security system in the military, political and economic fields and humanitarian relations put forward by the 27th Congress of the CPSU, the declaration by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC dated January 15, 1986 and the Delhi Declaration.

The recent agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States regarding dismantling medium and short-range missiles, make people of the world hopeful, that steps will be taken for ensuring lasting and just peace on our planet.

Foreign minister noted that after the victory of the April revolution, the international position of the DRA in the international arena is being consolidated day-by-day in spite of stubborn resistance of imperialism and reaction for isolating the country.

The foreign policy activity of the DRA, in the course of time has acquired a dynamic and constructive character. At present, our country has diplomatic relations with more than 80 countries of the world.

The goals and principles of the foreign policy of the DRA are quite clear and have won the support of the people.

The developing relations with our great northern neighbour, the Soviet Union, constitute one of the main and basic principles of our country's foreign policy which fully coincides with the national interests of the two countries.

The Soviet Union has continued its all-round assistance at the most difficult moments of the history of our country, i.e., at the time when the DRA has become the target of imperialist aggression. Under the conditions of national reconciliation, this assistance is being enriched with new forms of economic, trade and cultural cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Our relations with other fraternal socialist countries have been promoted to a new qualitative level. The cooperation of the countries of socialist community aimed at the realisation of the main directions of socio-economic development of the country is of great importance as well. The DRA, while attaching great importance to this cooperation, considers expansion and further consolidation of this fraternal and selfless cooperation to be one of its main and undelayable tasks.

The DRA as an Islamic, neutral and non-aligned country strives to expand and improve its relations with Islamic countries. The relations of our people with the people of these countries are deeply-rooted in history.

The efforts of the DRA for the restoration of relations with Egypt and Saudi Arabia, unfortunately, have not brought desired results.

The DRA continues searching new ways for the restoration of its membership in the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The April national-democratic revolution and the temporary presence of the Soviet limited military contingent in our country by no means contradict the Islamic essence of the DRA, he noted.

We are in favour of improving our relations with the two neighbouring countries, i.e., Iran and Pakistan. The deep-rooted cultural, historical and traditional links exist between the peoples of Afghanistan and Iran. We are sure that the consolidation of this friendship will help strengthening peace and security in our region.

Unfortunately, in spite of our peaceful efforts, the territory of Pakistan is still being used for the interference in the internal affairs of the DRA as well as arming,

equipping and military training of the extremist elements of the opposition. This situation turns counter to the interests of the peoples of our countries and intensifies tension in our region.

The development of cooperation and friendly relations with our other neighbour—the Republic of India—which, being one of the largest Asian countries, enjoys great influence in the political arena of the world and in the region, inspires us with hope for broad perspective. Our relations with India, especially in trade and economic fields, have considerably improved. The contacts of the Afghan side with the political and social figures of India have assumed a steady character.

The People's Republic of China is our neighbour as well. One of the main tasks of our foreign policy is to ensure goodneighbourly and friendly relations with this great socialist power of Asia, especially while keeping in mind the fact that there is no disputable problems and issues between Afghanistan and China.

Afghanistan, as a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement, pays special attention to strengthening traditional relations with other member countries of this movement. These relations are being consolidated with every passing day on the basis of common anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist and anti-apartheid policy. And the DRA would do its best for further deepening and developing it.

The DRA continues its active role in the Coordination Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement and in future, too, would search for the positive and constructive factors for the expansion of its activities in this role. The last year testifies to the growth of active role of Afghanistan in different gatherings, within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement, out of which one can name the gatherings in Havana, Pyongyang, Guyana and Harare.

The Afghan foreign minister pointed out that the participation of the DRA in the United Nations and other international organisations has been expanded to a considerable extent. The special reporter of the Human Rights Commission of the UN has paid a visit to the DRA. We are looking forward to the visit of the United Nations high commissioner for refugees. It is worth mentioning that recently ar agreement for vaccination of children in the territory of Afghanistan has been agreed upon with UNICEF. The process of the development of contacts with the International Committee of Red Crescent is going on.

The DRA, based on the principles of peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, comes out for the expansion of relations with developed capitalist countries, including the USA, for the restoration of political contacts with them in full volume.

The policy of national reconciliation at the present stage of the April revolution constitutes one of the main aspects of the DRA foreign policy aimed at creating favourable international conditions for social progress and peaceful development of Afghan society.

After the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy an appropriate change has taken place both in the sphere of foreign policy and international relations of the DRA.

The policy of national reconciliation has further promoted the prestige and credibility of the foreign policy of the DRA. It has not only widely reflected the peaceful and noble objectives of the revolutionary power in the international arena but has also paved the way for the expansion and development of diplomatic relations of the DRA with other countries of the world.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA, following this principle, in the course of time after the proclamation of this policy has carried out purposeful work. For establishing direct contacts with the leaders of many member countries of the UN, in July and August of the current year, special envoys of good-will of the DRA visited 53 Asian, African, Middle East, Latin American and European countries. In many of these countries Afghan delegations were received at the highest levels. Some of these countries have in mind to send their delegations in the years 1987-88 to the DRA for the continuation of the started dialogue and for further development of contacts and cooperation in different spheres. Majority of these countries consider the national reconciliation policy in the DRA to be deeply humanitarian and the only alternative to war and bloodshed. They expressed their support to this policy and approved of the Geneva talks being held for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

During the current year, diplomatic relations with Zimbabwe and Cyprus have been established and an agreement has been reached regarding the opening of the DRA embassies in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua and Austria. Some of friendly and non-aligned countries, such as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Syrian Arab Republic have proposed to open their embassies in Kabul. An agreement on the exchange of non-resident ambassadors has been reached with some of the African and Latin American countries, out of which Benin, Mozambique, Angola, Ghana, Mali, Burkina Faso, Argentina and Bolivia can be named. Besides, other countries like Togo, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Panama have agreed, in principle, to exchange non-resident ambassadors.

It is worth mentioning that the following important documents have been circulated as official documents of the United Nations: The messages to the UN secretary general on national reconciliation, the DRA proposals on sending to Pakistan and Iran a special delegation

composed of representatives from the Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation, prominent social figures of the country and international organizations to visit camps of Afghan refugees there and to give an account of their living conditions and of their desire or unwillingness for returning home, as well as the DRA proposals on sending chartered passenger planes to these countries to carry home these Afghan refugees who want to repatriate.

The principled and honest stand of the DRA at the Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan testifies to the fact that the DRA has paid keen attention to a rapid and just settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and has persistently striven for this aim by displaying necessary flexibility, political goodwill and proceeding from the assumption of settlement of differences through negotiations. So far, the sides have been able to almost finalize the main documents of the political settlement. Moreover, as a result of the recent round of the Geneva talks the difference in the stands taken by the sides on the time-frame for the return of Soviet limited military contingent has been reduced to eight months. If the Pakistani side takes a constructive stand at the talks by giving preference to its national interests rather than external pressure and if it displays its genuine will for settling the situation around Afghanistan, this would enable us to settle the rest of the differences, including the time-frame for the return of the Soviet limited contingent, and let the talks be ended in the future.

The delegation of the DRA took active part in the 42nd session of the UN General Assembly and held talks with foreign ministers of over 30 countries, mainly the member states of the Non-Aligned Movement, and exchanged views on different regional and international problems. Moreover, the delegation of the DRA at that session took a constructive position regarding the resolution on the situation around Afghanistan and expressed its preparedness to help in working out the resolution that will be effective for the accelerated settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, 'Abdul Wakil stressed.

Nur on Party Amendments

LD210845 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0518 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 20, *Bakhtar*—"The party has been considerably enriched in the last five years of the practice of the party rules adopted by the first nation-wide party conference enforced. On the other hand, new tasks have emerged whose fulfilment requires higher combat capability of the party and all its units. Hence, the need for introducing amendments to the rules of the PDPA."

This was stated by Nur Ahmad Nur, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC in his speech at the second nation-wide party conference on Monday about amendments to be made in party rules.

The party central organs, party committees and organizations in localities have confirmed the perception of this need. During the April party meetings, party conferences and plenary sessions of the party committee, the party members put forward many meaningful and constructive proposals, comments and amendments to the enforced party rules. All these have accurately been analyzed and summed up by the Organizational Department of the Central Committee. They have also been assessed and evaluated by the Secretariat and Politburo of the Central Committee, and have been taken into account while preparing the draft amendments to the rules of the PDPA.

Over the last five years the party has qualitatively grown and organizationally consolidated. The party has now organized in its ranks 186,000 members and candidate members. This figure is thrice bigger as compared to 1982. All aspects and spheres of the inner party relations have developed.

Considerable changes have appeared in the organizational structure of the party, particularly at the middle and lower levels. 71 sub-district and 15 district party organizations have newly been set up.

Today, the party has a wide network of primary party organizations, whose number has gone up from 1,767 in 1981 to 5,900 in 1987, that is a three fold growth. The number of party organs and organizations in the armed forces has increased from (?15) [first digit indistinct] to 2,117 up to 60 per cent of party members are organized in these organizations, he noted.

These figures bear out not only the development of the party and the changes in its structure but also the promotion and widening of its links with the masses. The party solved an extremely difficult and complicated problem. It reconstructed its life and work in the conditions of a hard struggle, in the fronts. Organizing the efforts to defend the revolution the party, he pointed out, directed the carrying out of deep socio-economic changes and became the initiator and conductor of the national reconciliation policy.

Amendments to the PDPA rules are introduced in close link with the new draft edition of the party's programme of action and in accordance with its provisions. They are all-sidely being made compatible with it, he said.

In the struggle for its ideals and objectives the PDPA tries to act as an advanced national patriotic force. Taking into account the interests of the broad national forces the party has drawn up and charted a programme for progressive and democratic transformations in all walks of the Afghan society and is consistent in implementing it.

A patriotic initiative of the PDPA is the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan that determines the ways and means for cessation of the fratricidal war, for establishing a lasting peace in the land of Afghans, said Nur Ahmad Nur.

The concrete amendment and changes to the party rules stems from the organisational principles and functions of revolutionary parties. These amendments are aimed at enriching the constitution of party life with the demands of the time. These amendments have the task of further strengthening the party on the basis of true principle of democratic centralism, elevating the authority of party members and restoring the essential role to be played by the party in the life of Afghan society.

Keshtmand Report on Economy

LD210719 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0418 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 20, *Bakhtar*—Certain successes are vivid. The first features of implementation of plan targets at the middle of the 5-year plan indicate an increase compared to the years prior to the revolution, said Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA in his speech on economic growth in the condition of national reconciliation delivered at the second party national conference.

Investment in the social and production spheres have escalated in the above period from 12 to 22.7 billion afghanis.

The policy of national reconciliation has had positive effect on economic activity and has given it strong momentum. In the course of implementation of this policy the rate of growth in industrial production has been one and half times higher than the average growth rate recorded during the post-revolution years.

Let us review rather comprehensively the growth in most important branches of the national economy:

Agriculture still remains the most key sphere of our national economy. The major part of gross national product is produced in this branch.

Grain production in 1986 is, rated 99.5 per cent of the production in 1980. However, wheat production fell by 5 per cent. Cotton harvest increased by 33 percent in the same period reaching 60,000 tons.

The agrarian problem always and everywhere has been in the focus of national-democratic changes. This problem has prime importance in our country. Therefore, the land and water question, improvement of relations in the villages of Afghanistan and thus the elevation of the living standards of peasants is regarded as the main prerequisite for the success of the national reconciliation policy and the transitional growth of the April revolution, and the expansion of the social bases of the PDPA and the popular government of the DRA.

The private sector has an important place in the national economy. 81 percent of the GNP comes from this sector, that is to say 99.9 percent from agriculture and 78 percent from trade. [figures as received] Life itself clearly shows that the collective and mutually beneficial work of the state organs with private sector lays the foundation for the growth of national economy.

The idea of joint efforts of state organs with private sector and national entrepreneurs has now been carried forward and has acquired a legal aspect.

In order to ensure joint efforts with private sector and national entrepreneurs new departments of private sector will be established in the framework of ministries.

Industry which acquires more importance with each passing year is increasingly playing an important role in the GNP of the country.

In 1982 industry produced 2 percent of the GNP, in 1986 this figure [words indistinct] percent. The volume of industrial production has increased in the last five years by 29 percent and in the state sector has increased by 50 percent. This achievement provided the opportunity to improve the supply of raw materials for power energy and other sources, to increase the volume of production of factory and manufacture. The volume of handicrafts make 9 percent of industrial production.

The economic-technical cooperation of the DRA with the Soviet Union is regarded as the industrial potential of the country. The power plants, thermal-power projects, foodstuffs and light industry built through Soviet assistance, contribute 60 percent of total industrial production and 75 percent of production in the state sector of the DRA.

The state network of telephones, radio and television has developed considerably in line with modern technology. A system of radio communications has been installed and at present telephone connections with provinces is maintained through this system. The programmes of Radio Afghanistan are broadcast for Iran, Pakistan, India and Western European countries. Eleven provinces are presently receiving Kabul television programmes with the aid of "Shamshad." The Afghanistan television is connection through Intersputnik with the international telecast system.

Direct international telephone channels connect Kabul with Moscow, Paris and London, and the postal services have expanded. At present 323 post offices are functioning. Dispatch of dailies and magazine has increased by

2.5 times. The capacity of telephone stations has increased to 36,000 lines. All these improvement made it possible to upgrade the total communication services by 85 percent.

Rehabilitation and growth of the economy has a direct link with the possibilities of basic construction. In the course of five years, 83 billions afghanis have been allocated for the needs of the socio-economic development of the country.

In 1986 the volume of total expenditure for the same purpose was almost doubled compared to 1982. But the Ministry of Construction (Comrade Nazar Muhammad) insufficiently attracts private companies for carrying out constructions, the volume of which is increasingly growing.

The volume of foreign trade has reached 1.4 billion US dollars. In the 1986, the socialist countries had the major share 68 percent in the foreign trade of Afghanistan, out of which the Soviet Union occupied a remarkable position 60 percent. Close contacts have been established with developing countries, the share of which in the foreign trade turnover comes to 16 percent. At the same time, the share of capitalist countries has fallen to 16 percent due to the economic blockade imposed by the imperialist circles.

In spite of the war which consumes huge sums, in the course of the last five years some victories have been won. There are 25,000 literacy courses functioning in the country, in which 516,000 people are learning. For over 703,000 students the doors of 1,241 public schools have been opened. Teachers of middle school level are being trained in 16 technical schools, 15 pedagogical colleges, 12 vocational technikums and 18 vocational schools. 17,000 students study in 28 facilities of five institutions of higher education.

The possibilities of rendering medical services to the people have increased to a considerable extent. 26 new hospitals have been built and their total number now reaches 109. The number of physicians has increased by 2.1 fold and the network of health centres and drug stores expanded.

We will put into practice the transition to a coalition form of administration taking into account the long-term programme drawn up for socio-economic growth of Afghanistan.

The main slogan of the economic policy in the conditions of national reconciliation is development, acceleration and initiative of action. This is the slogan of the party, state and government.

Transition to coalition administration is impossible without consolidating the leading role of the party as well as increasing its effectiveness on the state apparatus and the entire political infrastructure party responsibility, party discipline and the militancy of party primary organizations are the guarantors of the victory of the policy of national reconciliation.

Resolutions Approved 20 Oct

LD202030 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The second nationwide conference of the PDPA on national reconciliation concluded successfully today after it issued messages and resolutions, approved party documents amid the unity and revolutionary solidarity of the elected party delegates, and heard a speech by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The BIA reported that at today's conference, held in the conference hall of the Polytechnic Institute and chaired by Comrade Nur Ahamad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, the congratulations of the presidium of the conference were conveyed by Comrade Nur Ahamd Nur to those delegates elected to the nationwide party conference who are to receive DRA medals and badges. He wished them further victories in accomplishing their duties in implementing the national reconciliation policy.

During this meeting Comrade Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communication, delivered an speech on preparations for marking the 10th anniversary of the April revolution. [passage omitted]

Comrade Najmoddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, then delivered a speech on PDPA international relations.

Comrade Solayman La'eq, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of nationalities and tribal affairs, then read out the draft of the conference message addressed to the people of Afghanistan, which was unanimously approved by the participants of the conference.

Comrade Haydar Masud, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, then read the conference's congratulatory message addressed to the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers, and the Soviet people, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which was approved by the participants with continuous applause and great expression of feelings.

During this session a report by the (?writing) commission of the conference on the drafts of conference's documents in consideration of views and proposals of the elected party delegates, was read out by Comrade

Taza Khan, deputy head of the Organization Department of the PDPA Central Committee. The final text of these documents was unanimously approved.

The conference documents were unanimously approved in consideration of views and suggestions by the elected delegates in the second nationwide PDPA conference. The documents consist of a resolution on duties of the PDPA regarding implementing the policy of national reconciliation and some amendments in the action program of the PDPA; a resolution on some amendments in the PDPA Charter; a resolution on national reconciliation; and fundamental directions of DRA foreign policy. [passage omitted]

At the end of the conference, Comrade Najibullah, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, delivered his concluding speech. He drew the attention of the conference's participants to their subsequent duties in realizing the policy of national reconciliation and resolutions of the conference and announced the end of the conference's work.

The work of the second nationwide PDPA conference on national reconciliation concluded at about 1300 in an atmosphere of unity and revolutionary solidarity.

Amanuddin Amin Visits Poland, Signs Agreements

LD210656 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0442 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 20, *Bakhtar*—Seyyed Amanuddin Amin, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, who is paying a friendly visit to the People's Republic of Poland, met with Zbigniew Messner, chairman of the Council of Ministers of that country on October 18.

During his visit the vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA signed an accord on the promotion of trade, setting up of industrial projects with joint investment in the DRA, and increase of technical aid of the People's Republic of Poland for the DRA.

Also, the protocol of cooperation between the two countries, chambers of commerce was concluded during the visit.

Dam, Irrigation Contracts Signed With Soviets

LD161336 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 15, *Bakhtar*—Contracts on technical and economic ground works of construction of water reservoir dam across the Lowgar river and rehabilitation of irrigating system of Hazhda-Nahr (18 canals) on the Balkh river have recently been signed in Kabul between the DRA and the Soviet Union.

This was stated by Mir Qutbuddin Quraishi [spelling as received], general president of Planning Department of the Ministry of Irrigation.

He added, "Over 138 kinds of construction equipment and engineering implements would be provided with the Soviet side to the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources during the next 18 to 24 months. [quotation marks as received]

Based on the preliminary studies of the ministry, Kabul citizens needed 1.95 cm/sec drinking water in 1984, while this figure would exceed to 7.5 cm/sec by the year 2000.

Accordingly, on the basis of urgent needs it was decided to start the study of the construction of Gat [spelling as received] water reservoir across the Lowgar river. This would be completed by the year 2000 with technical and economic assistance of the USSR according to Quraishi.

He added that the construction of the dam had been discussed already in the sixth joint commission for technical and economic cooperation.

For the improvement of hygiene and environmental purposes, 1 to 1.5 cm of water would permanently be led to Kabul river through this dam, which is located in 13 km of Kabul city.

Presently as many as 366 persons (of whom 96 being engineers, 60 technicians and professional employees, and 40 skilled workers) handle various jobs in this institute with the assistance of over 30 Soviet experts, Quraishi concluded.

Armed Groups Surrender in Laghman, Jowzjan

LD200635 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0503 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 19, *Bakhtar*—Four armed groups composed of 135 armed men by abandoning war and fratricidal activities in Laghman and Jowzjan Provinces have joined the policy of national reconciliation thus the Nimroz Province was cleared from the extremist groups and declared as peace zone last week.

Over ninety thousand of the emigre Afghans who were living in Iran and Pakistan have returned to their homes and villages and 1,600 villages have peacefully came under revolutionary sovereignty since the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation.

One hundred and seventy-four opposition armed groups of 30,000 men have joined the state of the DRA and have started their peaceful life with 100,000 other people during that period.

Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA in the main report delivered in the opening session of the

second nation-wide conference of the PDPA, opened yesterday, said that the leadership of Afghanistan is always endeavouring to enter into dialogue with the opposition groups.

Dr. Najibullah proposed that representative offices of the major opposion groups be opened in Kabul, provided that their heads express their principled consent with the idea of conciliation, maintenance of peace and security in the country.

Arms Cache Discovered in Kabul Province

LD200621 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 19, *Bakhtar*—The Afghan security forces discovered an extremists' arms store in the subdistrict of Kha-e Jabbar of Kabul Province, and evacuated it with the local people's cooperation.

The arms and ammunition included ground to ground missiles, English and Chinese mortars, anti-tank mines, anti-rocket shells and explosion instruments.

Bangladesh

Opposition Unions Call 48-Hour Strike

BK190652 Hong Kong AFP in English 0634 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 19 (AFP)—Shops remained closed and traffic was thin in Dhaka Tuesday [as received] as a 48-hour national strike called by an opposition-backed Federation of Trades Unions began, witnesses and union sources said.

Some 3 million employees in the public and private sectors joined the strike, union sources said, after last-minute efforts late Sunday failed to reach a negotiated settlement.

The strike was called by the influential Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), which comprises more than 20 trades unions and employees' associations in the banking, industrial and transport and railways sectors, SKOP sources said. The SKOP is calling for better wages and benefits and protesting a government move to denationalise some public sector enterprises, union sources said.

The Bangladesh capital was peaceful Monday, but there was little traffic on the streets and many shops remained closed, witnesses said.

In the Motijheel business district some commercial banks and offices were kept open under tight security, but there were few customers and little business being done, witnesses said.

The railway control room at Dhaka told *Agence France-Presse* that some trains had left the capital's Kamalapur station early Monday, but they were later halted part way through their journeys.

Reports from the southeastern port city of Chittagong said the SKOP strike was also being observed there, and no trains left there Monday.

The government has said the strike was unjust and unlawful, noting that the country is still reeling from the effects of devastating monsoon floods.

Officials said a two-day strike would cost nearly 2.66 million dollars in production losses.

Mahbubul Haider, a senior SKOP leader, told AFP that reports from different parts of the country suggested the strike was being observed "totally and completely."

At least six people were injured in a skirmish between SKOP supporters and pro-government trades unionists early Monday in the industrial area of Tejgaon, but there were no other reports of violence, he added.

In the industrial town of Khulna in the southwest, seven labour leaders had been picked up by police, SKOP sources said.

The SKOP has been pressing for a five-point charter that includes demands for higher wages and benefits, improved employment conditions and trade union rights, implementation of some earlier agreements on wages and the repeal of a government decision to disinvest some public sector banks and industries.

The government has said it was ready for talks within the existing legal framework of a Tripartite Consultative Committee (TCC) and accused SKOP of refusing negotiations.

Opposition sources have claimed that at least a dozen political leaders and activists had been rounded up in the last two days, and press reports Monday said that most of the important labour leaders had gone into hiding to avoid arrest.

SKOP's 48-hour strike comes three weeks before a planned "siege" of Dhaka being organised by the country's mainstream opposition parties and alliances to force the ouster of the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Production Levels Maintained

BK191745 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Normal work was reported today from all the industrial units under the Directorate of Industries and the corporations of the Ministry of Industries despite a 48-hour strike call of the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad.

According to a report received in Dhaka, production was not hampered in any unit of industrial sector, and both public and private sector industries have maintained

their normal production schedule. In the 22 industrial units under the Chemical Industries Corporation, the percentage of presence of their officers was 100, while it was between 99 and 97 in case of workers and employees. In all the 20 industrial units of [name indistinct] engineering corporation, production was also normal. Ninety-nine percent officials and other employees of these units were present and the production was satisfactory. In the 19 industrial units under the Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, all except one continued their production today as the presence of officers, employees, and workers were satisfactory.

The handout also said 65 percent industrial units of the private sector continued their work today as the production was normal. In Dhaka division 75 percent industries continued their production today, while in Chittagong it was 45 percent, in Khulna 70 percent, and in Rajshahi also 70 percent. [passage omitted]

Situation Reported 'Normal'

BK201708 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] On the 2d day of the 48-hour illegal strike called by some labor groups, the situation improved all over the country today. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere. Reports also say life was quite normal throughout the country.

More mills and factories which were closed yesterday resumed production today. Out of the country's total 78 jute mills, 67 mills, including the Adamji jute mill, functioned fully yesterday and today. Three mills, which worked partially, were in full operation today. Eight mills in Khalidpur area of Khulna went into partial operation today. Out of total 63 textile mills, 64 are functioning fully [figures as heard]. Other mills and factories are also operating normally.

Chittagong and Mangla ports were in normal operation. Launches and steamers have been operating as usual. Train services, including those from and to Chittagong, operated normally. All road transport services were also normal.

Attendance in government offices was normal. Banks and other commercial organizations transacted normal business. Shops and bazaars remained opened as usual.

Opposition Unions Claim Success

BK210743 Hong Kong AFP in English 0718 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 21 (AFP)—Bangladesh returned to normal Wednesday at the end of an illegal, opposition-backed 48-hour strike, observers said. The strike was launched by the influential Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), a federation of neary 20 trade unions and employee associations.

SKOP leaders said the strike was spontaneous and a total success against government claims that it had waning support from the workers and general public. Observers said the stoppage only partially disrupted some economic sectors and transport Monday and Tuesday.

The SKOP called the strike to press for 46 demands, including higher wages and benefits and the implementation of earlier wage-hike agreements. But it was also held to protest a recent government move to denationalise a number of public sector banks and industrial units, sources said.

At least 24 activists were arrested and nearly 30 people were injured in clashes between strike supporters and members of government-backed trade unions, SKOP sources said. The figures could not be officially confirmed.

The SKOP claims to have up to three million supporters in industry, transport, railway, banking and other sectors and is backed by the country's mainstream opposition parties and alliances.

The opposition has been trying to step-up anti-government agitation, alleging that President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has messed up the country's economy, destroyed democratic institutions and failed properly to tackle recent disastrous floods.

Mr. Ershad has countered that the opposition is trying to disrupt post-flood rehabilitation programmes.

BNP Leader Seeks Unified Opposition

BK201508 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Begum Khaleda Zia, Chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Wednesday called upon all political parties to sink petty differences and forge a strong unity to make the Dhaka siege programme on November 10 a success. She said that the entire nation was united for the Dhaka siege programme and determined to face any situation following the programme.

She was addressing a rally of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal [Nationalist Women's Group] at the central office of BNP. The rally was presided over by Begum Ahsanulla.

Begum Khaleda Zia said that the present government was clinging to power all demands of the people. [sentence as published]

Begum Zia said that a sense of insecurity had been prevailing throughout the country as the law and order situation deteriorated to its lowest ebb.

Begum Khaleda Zia will address the special extended meeting of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal [Nationalist Student's Group] at the party's central office today (Thursday) at 11 a.m.

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka City unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held at 6:30 p.m. today (Thursday) at Nawab Yousuf Market. Presidents and General Secretaries of all thana and ward committees have been requested to attend the meeting.

Ershad Returns From Commonwealth Summit

BK201632 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] President Ershad returned to Dhaka this afternoon after attending the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Vancouver. He was accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad. Vice President Nurul Islam received President Ershad at the Zia International Airport. Others who were present at the airport to receive the president included Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, ministers, the chiefs of three services, diplomats, and high civil and military officials. The president was given a guard of honor by a smartly turned out contingent drawn from three services.

India

Reportage on Continuing Sikh Unrest in Punjab

Police Ring Golden Temple

BK201307 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Amritsar, India, Oct 20 (AFP)—Police and paramilitary troops ringed the Golden Temple here Tuesday as Sikh militants prepared to defy a government ban and hold an assembly of the faithful to endorse their separatist campaign.

Police said they will not allow the Sikh congregation planned for Wednesday, when Hindus celebrate their biggest festival, to go ahead. "Not a single person will be allowed to pass the police cordon into the temple," Police Superintendent Baldev Singh told *Agence France-Presse*.

The congregation at the temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, was called last week by militant-backed Sikh high priests to show support for the separatist campaign.

Police on Sunday arrested three of the four Sikh high priests and launched a crackdown on militant organisations to prevent the congregation going ahead.

About 50 Sikhs, mainly members of the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), the sword arm of the separatist movement, have been held.

The usually bustling Golden Temple was virtually deserted Tuesday and there were few devotees. Rooms known to be occupied by the militants were locked.

The government has said that the congregation had been called for "anti-national" purposes and banned it.

On Wednesday Hindus celebrate Diwali, or the festival of lights, and the authorities fear communal violence.

But the AISSF—the Panthic Committee—which functions as the "cabinet" of the separatist movement—and the newly-formed Council of Khalistan have said the congregation will go ahead.

Violence linked to the Sikh separatist campaign has left more than 1,400 people dead since January 1986.

Golden Temple 'Stormed'

BK210347 Hong Kong AFP in English 0326 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Amritsar, India, Oct 21 (AFP)—Police and paramilitary troops stormed the holiest shrine of Sikhdom under the cover of an indefinite curfew here Wednesday in search of Sikh militants suspected to be hiding in the shrine, police said.

The action came on the eve of a congregation of the faithful called by militant-backed Sikh high priests to endorse the bloody Sikh campaign for secession in Punjab.

The security forces were searching pilgrims' hostels in the Golden Temple complex, but had not entered the Sanctum Sanctorum, a senior police official said.

An indefinite curfew was enforced at 6 a.m. local time (0030 GMT) before the security men entered the complex.

Security forces also entered the second biggest Sikh shrine in this Punjab holy city, Saheeda Sahib, he said.

The search for Sikh militants in both shrines was continuing, but there were no immediate reports of arrests.

The government has banned Thursday's Sarbat Khalsa, or gathering of the faithful, which was summoned by Sikh high priests last week. But the militants have said they would defy the ban.

State-run Indian Television reported Wednesday that about 200 Sikhs had been held in a state-wide crackdown on Sikh militant groups ahead of the Sarbat Khalsa.

200 Arrested; Curfew Imposed

BK210408 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, about 200 preventive arrests have been made during the last 2 days. According to an official spokesman, the arrests have been made as a precautionary measure in view of some latest developments in the state. He said law and order will be maintained in the state at all costs and nobody will be allowed to provoke secessionism and violence.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew has been imposed in Amritsar City from 0600 this morning.

Residential Buildings Searched

BK210656 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, security forces have conducted a search in the residential buildings around the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. Agency reports, quoting official sources, say the search in the Guru Ram Das Sarai, Guru Nanak Niwas, Akal Rest House [all hostels around the Golden Temple], and offices of the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhaka Committee—Sikh Temples Management Committee] and All India Sikh Students Federation was completed by 0830 this morning. Twenty persons have been rounded up for interrogation.

Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in the city from 0600 this morning as a precautionary measure.

Reportage on Terrorist Attack in New Delhi

10 'Gunned Down'

BK210330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Terrorists gunned down 10 persons and injured 7 in a fresh spurt of violence in Chittaranjan Park and Nanakpura areas of South Delhi last night. While nine persons died on the spot, one succumbed to injuries in the hospital. One of the terrorists was killed when police chased them near Dhaula Kuwan.

According to eyewitnesses, three terrorists wielding sten guns and revolvers came on a scooter and shot at two persons near their homes in Chittaranjan Park. Later they went to nearby Kali Puja pandals [temporary pavilions where the idol of Hindu goddess Kali is placed for worship by the devotees] and sprayed bullets at random at people who gathered to witness the decoration of the idol on the eve of Kali Puja. An All India Radio correspondent who visited the area reports that in one of the pandals blood was splattered all over the place near the idol.

According to police, the terrorists later abandoned the scooter and boarded a bus to escape. As they got down from the bus near Nanakpura, 10 km away from Chittaranjan Park, they were chased by a police party. In the exchange of fire one terrorist was killed. An assistant subinspector [of police] was also injured. While fleeing, the terrorists also shot at and injured one person at Nanakpura.

Police sources said that a Chinese rifle, a sten gun, and a revolver along with 600 live cartridges were recovered from the killed terrorist. The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Mr H.L. Kapur, and Police Commissioner Mr Ved Marwah visited the areas. A large contingent of police has been posted at Chittaranjan Park and police patrolling intensified. Maximum alert has been sounded and the security arrangements in the capital have been tightened.

Home Minister Calls Meeting

BK210922 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, convened a high-level meeting in New Delhi this morning and reviewed the security arrangements in the capital. The meeting was attended by the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, the lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr H.L. Kapur, and the police commissioner, Mr Ved Marwah.

A massive hunt for the terrorists responsible for last evening's shooting incident in South Delhi continues. A spokesman of the Delhi police said that the terrorist was killed in a shootout and has been identified as the one wanted in the earlier shootout incident in the Kalkaji and the Greater Kailash area. Meanwhile, the death toll in the incident has gone up to 12, including 1 terrorist. The spokesman said one body was recovered early this morning at the place where the terrorists had abandoned their scooter.

The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has expressed his anguish over the killings of innocent persons in a shootout by terrorists in South Delhi last night. He said the wanton killings of persons engaged in an act of worship is a crime against all that is sacred in life. He called upon the people to unitedly fight all those elements that seek to vitiate our culture and distort human values.

The president of the Delhi Pradesh [state] Akali Dal, Longowal group, Jathedar Onkar Singh Thaper, has condemned the killings. In a statement he described it as an unpardonable crime against innocent people.

The Delhi Kendra Guru Singh Sabha [a Sikh organization] in a statement has also condemned the killings. Describing it as a demon design of terrorists, the Sabha has appealed to all communities to foil their aim to disturb traditional amity between the communities.

Sikh Group Claims Attack

BK210950 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 21 Oct 87

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Oct 21 (AFP)—The army and police launched a massive manhunt Wednesday for two Sikh militants who, disguised as cricketers, shot and killed 10 Hindus and wounded seven in the Indian capital overnight, officials said.

A police official said three Sikh gunmen, rather than four as reported earlier, had taken part in the massacre in a Bengali Hindu-dominated area of south Delhi and one of them died in a shoot-out with police shortly afterwards.

The house-to-house search was concentrated in an area near the city's army cantonment, close to where the shoot-out had occurred, police said.

The Bhindranwale Tigers Force, an ultra-militant Sikh group fighting for a Sikh nation in the northern state of Punjab, claimed responsibility for the killings in a letter left behind at the site of the massacre, police said.

The gunmen, who witnesses said were in white flannels and had cricket kits, rode a scooter through the Chittaranjan Park area spraying automatic gunfire on Hindus at three places, the official told *Agence France-Presse*. [passage omitted]

The Sikh killed in the shoot-out was identified as Subedar Singh alias Rajbir Singh, believed to head the local unit of the Tigers Force.

The capital's borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh states were sealed and security beefed up throughout the city as police feared anti-Sikh riots.

The Bhindranwale Tigers Force's letter said the attack was to "avenge the killings of innocent Sikh youths in fake encounters by police in Punjab."

Scores of suspected militants have been killed in gunbattles with police in Punjab, where some 700 people have died this year in separatist-linked violence. Separatists allege the battles were staged by the police to eliminate separatists without making them stand trial, but police have denied this.

Intelligence officials said Tuesday night's massacre was planned to spread terror a day before Hindus celebrate Diwali, their festival of lights, and Sikh militants may also be planning a massacre at the cricket World Cup here.

Additional Police Commissioner Arun Bhagat told AFP security for India's World Cup match against Australia here Thursday would be the "tightest ever." [passage omitted]

Tamil Group Threatens To Disrupt Railways

BK210214 Hong Kong AFP in English 0205 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Madras, India, Oct .20 (AFP)—An opposition Indian Tamil party Tuesday threatened to paralyse train services here in southern Tamil Nadu State unless the Indian army stopped fighting Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka by Wednesday.

"If this reasonable plea goes unheeded, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) will stop all trains (in Tamil Nadu) for a full 24 hours (begining early Saturday)," a party spokesman said here. The DMK is the largest opposition party in Tamil Nadu, which is home to more than 50 million Indian Tamils.

The spokesman said the decision to paralyse rail traffic was taken at a high level party meeting.

The DMK had in the past demanded intervention by the Indian army in Sri Lanka to aid Tamil militants fighting for a homeland there. It is now inviting all opposition parties to a meeting Thursday here in Madras, the Tamil Nadu capital, to discuss the Sri Lankan situation.

The DMK spokesman said the Indian military thrust to disarm guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dominant Tamil militant group, was continuing in spite of several pleas to end all hostilities.

More than 600 people have been officially reported dead in the two week's of combat, the majority of them Tamil militants.

The Indian force was established under a July 29 Indo-Sri Lankan accord aimed at ending the bloody, four-year Tamil separatist campaign.

Gandhi's Talks With U.S. Leaders Reported

BK210525 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said that he has no doubt that the United States will take action against Pakistan if it goes ahead with its nuclear weapons program. He said this is perhaps because the United States now realizes how close Pakistan is to acquiring nuclear weapons capabilities. He said his feeling is that Washington is now aware of the gravity of what is happening in Pakistan and is sure that it will take concrete steps to stop Pakistan. Mr Gandhi was speaking to newsmen after his talks with President Reagan and other U.S. leaders during his 1-day visit to Washington. Mr Gandhi agreed with a questioner that the U.S. stand on the nuclear question is a shift in American policy.

The prime minister said that he had argued with President Reagan that India could not be equated with Pakistan on the nuclear issue. Mr Gandhi said that

Indian nuclear program is entirely in the civilian sector and it is free for scrutiny by parliament and legislatures. The Pakistan program is entirely military. It is closed to scrutiny and is clandestine.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said there is no question of India signing the Nonproliferation Treaty because it is discriminatory. Even the nuclear weapons states are not adhering to the ban on proliferation under the treaty. He declared: We regard the treaty as blatantly unfair. India has shown that it has the capability of making nuclear weapons, but, at the same time, it has demonstrated restraint, Mr Gandhi added.

Summing up his visit to the United States, the prime minister said it has gone off very well. The course that was set for Indo-U.S. relations in 1985 have brought the two countries closer. The present visit has set out the next phase of cooperation in areas of science and technology. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was at the White House for a lunch hosted by the U.S. President. At the discussions, both the countries agreed on a number of new steps to expand mutual cooperation. Pakistan's efforts to make a nuclear bomb, the U.S. aid to Pakistan, and other international developments, particularly in South Asia, also figured in their discussions.

Our special correspondent Manohar Takru reports that the two leaders announced a 9-point program of measures for Indo-U.S. cooperation in science and technology, education, and trade. India does not want nuclear weapons in its neighborhood, Mr Gandhi made it clear.

President Reagan referred to India's role in ending the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. He said he acknowledged the statesmanship and courage demonstrated by Mr Rajiv Gandhi and President Jayewardene, and he pledged his country's full support to the agreement.

Our special correspondent Deepesh Chandra Bhowmick understands that the discussions between the prime minister and the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate were marked by utmost cordiality and sincere appreciation for India's views on different issues.

The U.S. defense secretary, Mr Weinberger, called on the prime minister early yesterday. The meeting centered around Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, Sino-Indian relations Argentina, and the Gulf.

Commentary Discusses Dalai Lama, Tibet

BK151539 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Commentary by political commentator Sunil Roy on developments in Tibet]

[Text] The outburst of militant discontent in Lhasa early this month coinciding with China's 38th national day must have come as a sudden shock both to the people outside China and to the Chinese leadership alike. Never before has Lhasa witnessed such an open confrontation with the warring Tibetan religious leaders and the law enforcement authorities. In the short-lived rebellion, several people were killed and a number of them injured. Leaving aside the question of justness or otherwise of the cause of unrest, such open challenge is bound to be met with force. The unarmed and disorganized Buddhist monks were no match for a well-equipped police personnel.

Beijing laid the blame for disturbances in Lhasa on the Dalai Lama who leads a life as an exile in India since 1959. With this firm belief, China asked India to take necessary measures to prevent the Dalai Lama from making political speeches. Nearly a week after the disturbances in Lhasa, the Dalai Lama called for a civil disobedience in Tibet. He also suggested demilitarization of Tibet as a step to solve the underlying cause of the unrest. But the Dalai Lama fell short of asking the Tibetans to sever direct links with China.

China views any protest in Tibet to seek redress of the people's grievances as part of a conspiracy to undermine the unification of the country and unification of all its minority nationalities. One of the demands voiced by the Dalai Lama in one of his public utterances is that all nuclear bases in Tibet should be dismantled as part of a broad scheme to make the roof of the world a peace zone. He took exception to the Chinese plan to transfer Han Chinese population to sparsely populated areas in Tibet threatening the very existence of the Tibetans as a people.

As a spiritual head of the Tibetan people, the Dalai Lama gave vent to their feeling when he said the Chinese must understand that whatever was happening in Tibet was a clear indication of total dissatisfaction of the people. There appears to be an attempt to suppress real facts about the goings on in Tibet. On the explicit orders of the Tibet regional government, all foreign newsmen were asked to leave Tibet. Almost simultaneously, it was asserted in Beijing by a Foreign Ministry spokesman that Lhasa is still an open city.

The Chinese leaders, angered over the disturbances in Tibet, would have been more vociferous had there been any hint of Indian involvement. Delhi has taken special care to avoid the impression of any encouragement to the Tibetan god-king or his followers. In fact, India scrupulously avoided to go into the specifics of the Dalai Lama's suggestions to solve the Tibetan issue. India was anxious that nothing should queer the pitch for New Delhi which is engaged in trying to mend fences with Beijing.

India's position has always been that it considers Tibet as an autonomous region of China. India did not want to make any official comment on the recent violent incidents in Lhasa. An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman made it clear that India does not want to

comment on China's internal affairs when his attention was recently drawn by a newsman to happenings in Tibet. He, however, pointed out that the Dalai Lama was a religious and spiritual leader and that when he came to India he was given asylum on humanitarian grounds. The advice given to him was that he should not indulge in political activities from the Indian soil. This advice still holds good.

In the entire new developments in Tibet what appears to be at stake is the Dalai Lama's ultimate return to his homeland. Several delegations had in the past visited Tibet and Beijing on fact-finding missions. That was the present impasse. It can be safely assumed that the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet is just not possible for years to come. Officially, China's view is that the Dalai Lama is welcomed to either pay a short visit to Tibet or for permanent residence. But what is not known to the rest of the world is that he must travel to China with a Chinese passport issued in Hong Kong.

BRIEFS

Nuclear Power Corporation

The Nuclear Power Board is being converted into Nuclear Power Corporation from today with an authorized capital of 2,000 crore rupees. Disclosing this in Bombay, the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr M.R. Srinivasan, said the new corporation will be responsible for design, construction, and operation of nuclear power stations in the country. [Text] *[Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Oct 87 BK]*

Iran

Explosion at Kuwaiti Electricity Site Noted
LD211203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1111 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Political commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. There are reports from Dubayy about a big explosion at Kuwait's electricity installations. In a newsflash, quoting managers of oil companies in the Persian Gulf region, UP reports an explosion in a power station near a port on Kuwait's southern border with Saudi Arabia.

According to this report, there are rumors among oil workers that the Mina' Su'ud power station in Kuwait is out of action. The report on the explosion comes at a time when there is an atmosphere of anxiety and fear surrounding the presence of U.S. forces and those who have placed the necessary facilities at U.S. disposal to attack Iran.

Western circles called the U.S. forces' attack on the Iranian oil platform Reagan's big mistake in directly entering the Iran-Iraq war. Western diplomats have emphasized that the Iraqi regime is in such a state that even the U.S. entry into the battlefield will not prevent Saddam's downfall. The latest report on this—a report by a number of U.S. Senate members—is about the U.S. inability to prevent Saddam's downfall.

The Reagan administration, which has resorted to amassing great numbers of troops in the Persian Gulf under the pretext of safeguarding international shipping, has brought a potential war upon itself by violating Iranian soil. In the view of Western observers, the outcome of such a war is extremely bleak for the interests of the United States and the West.

The immediate reaction of U.S. and Western investors, which appeared in the form of a drop in share values, shows the deep anxiety prevailing in the West.

The important point about the Persian Gulf incidents is—and both the United States and its allies are aware of this—that Iran will not leave the U.S. crime unanswered; Iran will definitely respond. This is food for thought for Western circles and has intensified their worries.

Mohtashemi on Preparing for Imam's 'Orders'
LD201711 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—The country's Security Council held a session presided over by Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi here today to review various dimensions of the U.S. plots in the Persian Gulf, especially its attacks on the Iranian oil platforms yesterday.

The council also discussed issues of the Iraqi-imposed war as well as movements of U.S. mercenaries across the Iran-Iraq borders. It approved several measures for confronting these mercenaries.

Speaking at the end of the session, Mohtashemi said the U.S. confrontation with the Islamic revolution, at a time when the Islamic culture is spreading across the world, is the main link in a chain of plots hatched by the U.S. since the pre-revolution era.

Iran's resolute blow on the number one enemy (U.S.) at this crucial juncture would pave the way for the spread of the revolution and triumph of other oppressed nations, Mohtashami stressed.

"The hit and run tactics of the Great Satan (U.S.) in the Persian Gulf stems from its acute fear of getting involved to the extent it cannot flee," the minister said.

He also pointed out that Iranian people should be ready and alert for the orders of the leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni in order to act in an appropriate way.

Commentary Threatens Response to U.S. Attack

LD201403 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Political commentary]

[Text] Yesterday's U.S. attack on Iranian oil platforms is the third U.S. military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past month. By attacking the Iranian supply ship *Iran-Ajr* on 21 September 1987, and by its helicopter attack on Iranian boats near Farsi Island in the past 2 weeks, the United States has entered into direct confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, what happened yesterday, in view of the fact that part of the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran was attacked, was a case of blatant aggression against the territorial integrity of Iran by the U.S. regime.

Even now it is clear that this provocative and aggressive U.S. action will lead to serious reprisals and reactions whose consequences will be even more intense than the bitter defeats the United States has experienced in other parts of the world. In its first formal reaction to this latest U.S. aggression, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that it will definitely respond to this evil aggression. Yesterday, our Foreign Ministry spokesman said that this U.S. aggression will mark the start of a widescale clash in the Persian Gulf. These remarks were made after Reagan announced that his government had reached an agreement on resorting to hostile actions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Shortly after these remarks were made, the U.S. Government launched an aggression against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and set fire to a number of nonmilitary and oil centers.

This action by the U.S. Government cannot remain unanswered because it is a blatant violation of the independence and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the course of the past few years, the Muslim Iranian people have demonstrated that they will not sit still in the face of aggression by their enemies and that they will defend their honor and existence with all their strength.

Contrary to Western propaganda, in the eyes of the Muslim Iranian nation these repeated U.S. aggressions are not merely limited and isolated events. On the contrary, it seems that they are carried out on the basis of a major, calculated, and warmongering conspiracy. Therefore, our country takes very seriously these repeated U.S. aggressions and again reiterates the need for the complete preparedness of the people. By exposing the hostile and warmongering intention of Washington, the Islamic Republic of Iran clearly restates its principled and basic policy to confront the creation of tension in the region. Moreover, in keeping with this policy and due to the fact that it believes the Persian Gulf belongs to the nations of the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond strongly to the U.S. bullying acts.

This rightful position of the Islamic Republic of Iran has won the approval of most progressive governments and organizations in the world. World public opinion accepts the fact that our country has been subjected to aggression and has the right to defend itself.

U.S. Threatened With 'Crushing Riposte'

NC210738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "A Destiny-Making Phase in the Confrontation Between World Oppression and the Islamic Revolution of Iran"]

[Text] Following the U.S. attack on Islamic Iran's oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, the tense region assumed a more explosive appearance. This criminal and hostile U.S. act against the Islamic Revolution is an act of overt aggression against the sovereignty and independence of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As reflected in the Western mass media and international public opinion, the criminal preplanned Washington attack against Islamic Iran's oil installations has generated a wave of uncertainty and dread with regard to the future of the already turbulent Persian Gulf (?situation). The unprecedented rise in interest rates in New York and all European cities is one of the manifestations of its (?effects).

The people of the world (?believe) that the current (?hostile) acts by Washington against the Islamic Republic of Iran blatantly contradict what U.S. policymakers had intitially professed in order to justify the presence of 30,000 of their troops and a large number of their warships in the Persian Gulf. Even U.S. officials no longer mention the objectives which they had originally claimed when they began to deploy their troops, and are now publicly talking about other objectives. The leaders of world oppression had flaunted the pretext of freedom of navigation and the escort of Kuwaiti tankers in order to carry out the deployment of their troops. Now U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger, the veteran pawn in Reagan's cabinet, who is an old hand in (?implementing) Washington's militaristic policy, openly declared that the ruling regime of Islamic Iran is an illogical one!

At present, when more than 70 U.S. warships are stationed in the Persian Gulf, the American UN representative, Vernon Walters, one of Reagan's military advisers, has stated that one of the U.S. objectives for stationing forces there is to support reactionary rulers of the region. However, the objective being (?specified) in unofficial U.S. circles, and which U.S. officials avoid in their public statements, is that the United States is trying to avert the fall of the Iraqi administration—for which purpose it deployed troops in the region. A glance at the timing of Washington's deployment of troops in the Persian Gulf indicates that this step was undertaken when the military balance had tilted in the Islamic Republic of Iran's favor and when the imminent downfall of Saddam was even being bandied about in news

circles and among Western military analysts. The proposal to escort Kuwaiti tankers was raised precisely at the time Iraqi ground forces had been entrenched in all fronts but lacked the strength to stem the infiltration and advance of the Islamic fighters into their positions. This was particularly seen after Ramadan Headquarters had initiated a series of partisan operations in northern Iraq which created serious and fundamental problems for the Baghdad ruling regime.

As a result of these developments, that regime has been forced to deploy some of its forces in the northern areas to prevent further infiltration by Islamic fighters. These conditions indicate that the pressure on the Iraqi forces in the southern and central fronts presaged the imminent demise of the Iraqi ruling regime. This is what is being debated in the U.S. Senate as well. Three members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee submitted a report after their recent visit to the region in which they stated that an Iraqi defeat should now be accepted as a realistic possibility. The report also questioned the professed U.S. neutrality in the imposed war of Iraq against Iran by admitting that Washington is now overtly siding with Iraq following the former's deployment of troops to the Persian Gulf. As a matter of fact, with the opening up of a new front against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the dispatch of its warships to the Persian Gulf, the United States is endeavoring to ease the pressure on the Iraqi regime. However, according to the Senators' report, the present trend in the region indicates that even the overt U.S. support for Iraq cannot save that regime from its impending downfall.

Western officials describe the regional situation following Saddam's exit in this way: The Islamic revolution will proliferate and the clash between its fundamental principles and the illicit U.S. interests in the region will pose a serious threat to the latter's interests. The leaders of world oppression, who had commenced an arcane, unofficial campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran and had embarked on various acts of deceit—including the attack on Tabas, the planning of various coup d'etats, instigating the Iraqi regime to attack Islamic Iran, and various other terrorist actions—are now experimenting with a direct confrontation with the Islamic Revolution following the defeat of all these plots.

As a result of all these developments, the present sensitive juncture is witnessing a confrontation between world oppression and the Islamic Republic of Iran in its most destiny-making stage. The full-fledged war initiated by the United States, which has assumed a new dimension following the violation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's territorial integrity in the form of its attack on Islamic Iran's oil platforms, will bring in its wake a decisive and crushing riposte from Islamic Iran—one which will not be confined to the region and which will endanger U.S. interests throughout the world.

At the present sensitive stage, our country's Islamic ummah, which has foiled all plots of world oppression in the past with faith in God, their own selflessness, and their presence on the scene, will comprehend the special implications of the situation. With their presence on the fronts, they will neutralize U.S. designs and make the United States regret its actions.

Tanker Attacks Highlight U.S. 'Vulnerability'

LD200854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 20 Oct 87

[From the "Holy Defense" program]

[Text] Dear listeners, we suppose that you, like all other people of Iran, are eagerly following the events of the imposed war and developments in the Persian Gulf. Certainly, you are aware that after the attack on two Kuwaiti oil tankers—one of which was sailing under the U.S. flag—American statesmen are badly confused. On the one hand, these fellows, up to several days ago, through their saber-rattling and with a great hue and cry, were announcing that by their presence in the Persian Gulf—while maintaining the security of Gulf shipping—they intended to teach the people of Iran a lesson. On the other hand, as a result of recent events and the missile attack on the oil tankers, their weakness and vulnerability have become more obvious. The U.S. statesmen are at an impasse, not knowing how to justify this disgrace. In any case, even the bankrupt U.S. politicians have understood and admitted the facts. The problem is that the United States, by coming to the region, has become embroiled in a trap. The more it moves, the more its limbs become entangled in this trap.

From the first day when his mightiness Reagan decided to dispatch his forces, those who understand the problem stressed that the Americans were making a dangerous mistake and that it would be better for them to withdraw before it was too late. The U.S. authorities ignored this advice and gradually escalated their intervention, bringing the affair to the state that we see now.

However, despite all these problems there is still time. As we say in Iran: You make a profit by cutting your losses. Yet, are the U.S. authorities prepared to accept the facts? This is something that we shall find out in the future.

Musavi Responds to U.S. Message

LD201937 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 20 Oct 87

["U.S. Feelers for Compromise Rejected Reveals Musavi, Vows Reprisal"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Oct 20, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi disclosed Tuesday that the U.S. has sent a message through Syria saying if Iran does not retaliate to its Monday's naval attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, Washington will halt its provocations.

Said the premier "Our response to the message was we will not let any blow go unanswered, compromise is impossible and we will retaliate the attack."

The premier revealed the issue in an interview with the press aboard the plane enroute to Tehran from Syria, where he vowed "After we deal our reprisal blow we will call it quits." But, he noted, the U.S. which initiated tension in the region should put an end to its mischievous acts.

The prime minister said that the U.S. is creating tension in the region in a bid to redeem its prestige, lost after the U.S.-reflagged Kuwaiti oil tanker '*Bridgeton*' hit a mine in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. attacked the Iranian cargo ship '*Iran-Ajr*' hoping to intimidate the Islamic Republic, Musavi said. But, he noted [words indistinct] U.S. blow with a stronger one."

On his talks with Syrian officials, Musavi said that he conferred with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on regional and international issues including the U.S. military presence in the region, the Iraqi-imposed war and Lebanon.

Musavi Interviewed on Syrian Visit
LD202004 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi by an unidentified Tehran radio correspondent on Musavi's plane enroute to Tehran from Damascus 20 October]

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who went to Syria at the head of a delegation, returned to Tehran this afternoon. He was welcomed at Mehrabad International Airport by Interior Minister Mohtashemi; several other cabinet ministers; Colonel Sohrabi, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; senior presidential adviser Mir-Salim; several Majlis deputies; and foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaires.

Our correspondent reports that upon his arrival in Tehran the prime minister reviewed a guard of honor at the airport. On his return to Tehran, he told our correspondent on the plane:

[Begin Musavi recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The trip's political tone was, of course, more prominent than its other aspects. However, there were also economic and cultural considerations. Extremely important and useful talks were held relating to regional issues; issues concerning the Persian Gulf, the U.S. presence in the region, its provocations and ways of confronting them; issues relating to the war imposed on us; as well as the Israeli and Lebanese issues. We achieved very good results concerning basic joint positions that bring our foreign policies closer together with regard to confronting the U.S. presence and the issue of Zionism.

We have developed an extensive bond with Syria, particularly in the course of the war that has been imposed on us. In practical terms, our exchange of views and aspects of coordination with regard to international bodies and conferences, as well as regional issues, has always enjoyed particular importance and proved effective in matters of international issues and relations. Useful talks also were held on these matters. In particular, I would like to stress the talks held with Mr Hafiz al-Asad.

What I can note about the results of the talks with Syrian officials are closer ties and greater coordination relating to the region's pivotal issues. In the course of the trip we also held meetings with Lebanese brothers who had been kind enough to come to Damascus. Good talks were held relating to the situation in Lebanon and the confrontation with Israel. Some anti-U.S. remarks were made. They came from the committed, revolutionary, and martyrdom-seeking individuals, quite reminiscent of our own youths fighting against our enemies at the front. [end recording]

Continuing the interview, Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi replied to our correspondent's questions about the U.S. plots in the Persian Gulf. He said:

[Begin Musavi recording] In order to regain its lost credibility in the region, the United States likes very much to come forward to strike at the Islamic Revolution, to support its surrogates in the region, and to help Saddam, who is on the verge of collapse. This is what everyone is saying now. In a report prepared for the U.S. Congress, this point has been clearly noted. In the fourth stage, the U.S. presence is aimed at being close by should something happen to Iraq, and at being able to intervene to help Saddam with the alternatives before him. The United States has come here for these reasons.

After it came here to regain credibility, its credibility was damaged when a mine hit the oil tanker *Bridgeton*. Then everyone saw the weakness of the United States, the weakness and pointlessness of U.S. policies. Since then, all the U.S. efforts have been devoted to compensate for that. Reagan, in particular, needs this; the Republicans need this in the United States. They want to prove that their policy is successful, that their policy relating to the McFarlane episode was correct. Therefore, they have come here in the hope that Iraq might prove effective against us. They want to use a step-by-step approach. When they attacked and destroyed the *Iran-Ajr* in such a savage manner, they thought the Islamic Republic would be intimidated. They received their answer, however. Of course, they have continued their criminal acts. They probably will continue in this way because of the madness we know they possess. It is already clear, however, that such policies are doomed to failure. The United States is, after all, a foreign power in the region. We are a committed and convinced power, intending to resist, and we will resist. Our country will continue to remain on the map, but the United States will be driven away

from the region and from the Persian Gulf. The region belongs to the regional countries. The power lies with us, with Islam and the Islamic movements in the region. These clashes are for the sake of protecting their illegitimate interests in the region. From our standpoint, our confrontation is for the sake of defending Islam, for defending what is right. It is our duty to fight oppression. If we had nothing else, this duty alone would be sufficient to impel us to resist.

The United States desparately needs to prove that it was the one that delivered the final blow in order to tell the world it has crushed Iran, that it has crushed the Islamic Revolution. However, after every blow we will say: Well, that is the last blow. Whoever starts it should finish the job. It is a question of the Islamic revolution's credibility. It is the question of not giving the slightest concession to the superpowers' world-devouring nature in the region. The slightest concession to the United States will help it advance in the region and against the Islamic Revolution. In no way can we stop at that. The Americans think they are dealing with children, with immature people. We have spent a lifetime facing U.S. plots. We are thoroughly familiar with the acts of mischief by this Great Satan. Obviously, we know its plans. It can go ahead and do whatever it likes, but we will implement our declared policy; namely, that they have attacked us and damaged our sovereignty and that we shall deliver the necessary answer to them. [end recording]

Shultz Meets Howe, Husayn; To Visit Moscow

LD201925 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] According to a KUNA report, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said today in London: In the wake of its attack yesterday on an Iranian oil platform, the United States will not go any further in the war. After a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, Shultz told reporters: This attack was not only appropriate but was also necessary. Shultz said: What happens in the Persian Gulf underlines the need to abide by UN Resolution No 598, which calls for a cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war.

It must be recalled that Shultz, while flying to London from Cairo, told reporters in the plane that U.S. allies in the Middle East, including Israel, were informed of the attack on Iran before it took place. Our colleague [as heard] has sent a report on Shultz's visit to England:

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who arrived in London last night, met British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe for talks. As Shultz had returned from a visit to the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, there is no doubt that the main topic of their negotiations was the situation in the Persian Gulf, particularly since the U.S. military attack on the Reshadat oil platform.

Yesterday, Great Britain was among the first allies of the United States to support its attack on the Reshadat oil platform, calling it a means of asserting Reagan's leadership in the White House. Opposition parties in England, while opposing recent White House policies in the Persian Gulf, as well as opposing London's support, pressured Sir Geoffrey Howe to make a statement in Commons about yesterday's action by the United States.

The "Oracle" television news network in London announced: Regarding the heightened tension in the Persian Gulf, Shultz and Howe will discuss possible ways to lessen the tension. Today, before meeting with Geoffrey Howe, Shultz met and talked with Husayn, the shah of Jordan, who is on a private visit to London. After his talks in London, Shultz is scheduled to go to Moscow for talks with Soviet authorities. In view of Moscow's position on U.S. military action in the Persian Gulf, the Moscow negotiations between George Shultz and Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign ministers of the United States and the Soviet Union, will command a great deal of attention.

Mo'ayeri Predicts Improved Ties With France

PM200924 Paris LE FIGARO in French 17-18 Oct 87 p 3

[Report on interview with Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri by Claude Lorieux in Damascus on 16 October]

[Text] Damascus—The Iranian Government foresees an early solution of the "embassies war" between Paris and Tehran that on 17 July prompted France to sever diplomatic relations.

On a stopover in Damascus 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, the Iranian deputy prime minister responsible for foreign affairs, told *Le Figaro* yesterday: "I believe we will see a change during the coming 2-3 weeks...It will not amount to a normalization but we will break the deadlock...The normalization process will begin or, rather, continue."

Mr Mo'ayeri, who was in Syria to prepare for Iranian Prime Minister Musavi's imminent visit, declined to specify the reasons for his relative optimism: "I am not authorized to provide any further details."

Tehran's envoy, whose 21 May 1986 visit to Paris provided the initial impetus to the normalization process, nevertheless admits that "certain efforts are being made at the moment to try to resolve the present situation," in other words, to resolve the deadlock.

With regard to negotiations on possible normalization, which were interrupted by the "embassies war", Mr Mo'ayeri said: "We have scored some successes. There are some matters on which we seem likely to reach valid solutions."

The Iranian prime minister's foreign policy aide continued: "Iran and France should have balanced and reasonable relations."

Asked about any beneficial consequences that a break in the deadlock of the Franco-Iranian crisis could have for the French hostages in Lebanon, the deputy prime minister took refuge behind Tehran's customary stance: "The French hostages problem is another matter and is unconnected with the normalization process." He added: "We have also said that this normalization process will clearly remove certain obstacles, certain blockages." This was a clear reference to the hostages affair.

Asked whether or not the U.S. Navy's presence in the Gulf and the recent Iranian attacks will result in a direct confrontation between his country and the United States, Mo'ayeri was no less ambiguous. Stressing the length of Iran's Gulf coastline and the fact that "our oil is exported from this region," the deputy prime minister added: "We need calm and security in the Gulf more than anyone else in the region." Mo'ayeri went on: "We have always said we would not be the first to engage in hostilities in the Persian Gulf. We really do not want to exacerbate tension in the region."

It seems that in Mo'ayeri's opinion it all started when the American Navy attacked the ship *Iran-Ajr*, that was caught, according to Washington, laying mines. "The United States declared war on the Iranian Navy by attacking an Iranian merchant ship. It is legitimate for us to reserve the right to take reprisals."

Iran, he pointed out, has proposed "the withdrawal of all naval forces from the region." His conclusion is that "the situation in the Persian Gulf is so explosive that if a conflict were to occur, it would be impossible to control." He added that it is the American Government that is "responsible for the tension in the region."

Mo'ayeri's talks with the Syrian Government included discussion on the situation in the Near East, especially in the Gulf. Explaining Iran's aid to Syria (a million barrels of oil per year, plus a quantity of crude sold at a reduced price), the deputy prime minister said: "We support the only country in the region that resists the regime that is occupying Jerusalem."

Greece Expresses 'Strong Concern' Over Attack

LD201904 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Athens, Oct. 20, IRNA—Greece has expressed "strong concern" over the escalation of tension in the Persian Gulf following the latest U.S. aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Government spokesman Ionnis Roumbatis said the "Greek Government had expressed its concern in the past over the escalation of tension in the Gulf. At this crucial time the government is expressing this concern in stronger terms."

The Greek Left' Party [name and single quotation mark as received] in an announcement condemned the American attack against Iran.

In an editorial, Greek morning daily *Rizospastis* said the United States was playing with fire and endangering peace, not only in the region but all over the world.

The daily expressed concern at the statements of Iranian leaders seeking revenge, saying "the Americans want to provoke such a reaction."

"It seems the Americans have not understood that in our age there does not exist military solutions, but only political solutions to international problems," commented *Rizospastis*.

The daily questions with what right and in which capacity has the United States declared the Persian Gulf to be its own sea.

The newspaper notes that the United States alone is not "capable of blowing up the earth" except with the help of friendly countries.

The daily regrets that Greece was in some ways connected with Monday's attack on the Iranian oil platforms.

Rizospastis says the use of U.S. Souda base in Crete to supply American warships had played some role in the aggression against Iran.

"Once again it has been proved that the presence of American bases and every art of facilities is dangerous," writes the daily, and demands the withdrawal of U.S. military bases from Greece. [sentence as received]

Velayati Visits to Cuba, Nicaragua Assessed

NC200844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] The need for unity and coordination among progressive and revolutionary forces has always been among the principles adhered to by the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is required to combat the coordinated and organized forces of world oppression spearheaded by the United States. From the point of view of our policymakers, any country, regardless of its location, that raises the slogans of independence and freedom can prove a valuable and effective ally of the Islamic Revolution and its framework of principles for its struggle against world oppression. The visit of our country's foreign minister to

Cuba and Nicaragua assumes immense importance in light of this point of view. This is based on the fact that ever since anti-U.S. administrations were established in the two countries, the United States has hatched numerous plots, in its capacity as leader of world oppression, aimed at undermining or toppling the political systems of these two countries.

Similarly, ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, our country's foreign policy has relied on Havana and Managua to bring about an expansion of mutual relations. Cuba has a long history of resistance against the United States and in this regard it holds a similar viewpoint with our country. Nicaragua was able to topple the American Somoza regime soon after Iran's Islamic Revolution. Consequently, that country became the target of political, economic, and military aggression of the United States. This is the reason for our country's support of Nicaragua.

Dr Velayati visited Cuba and Nicaragua last year as well. During that trip, unity among Nicaragua, Cuba, and Iran was seen as a way to combat U.S. machinations. During his current visit, our country's foreign minister and his interlocutors are exchanging views on the previously covered topics, in addition to discussing and reviewing the actions of the United States in the Persian Gulf, which are fomenting tension there.

In view of the fact that Cuba is considered an active member of the Nonaligned Movement, an assessment will be made during Dr Velayati's visit of the movement's sessions under the aegis of the UN General Assembly meetings that are examining the imposed war and terrorism. This is in addition to the talks our country's foreign minister will have in Cuba on bilateral relations and their expansion, as well as international issues.

Our foreign minister and Cuban leaders will hold talks on the Persian Gulf crisis, as well as examine the joint cooperation of the two countries in the Nonaligned Movement, in order to reach a common viewpoint regarding the U.S. policy of generating tension.

Our foreign minister will visit Nicaragua after his visit to Cuba. Despite the fact that Iran and Nicaragua stand together on the international level on principle, recent events in the Persian Gulf have brought the two countries' positions closer than before. This is due to the fact that the United States is presently following a similar policy toward both countries. The trend toward fomenting tension in Central America dates back to the beginning of Reagan's presidential tenure. The same policy is being pursued in the Persian Gulf.

It can be said that in general our foreign minister's current visit to Nicaragua and Cuba can be viewed as a precursor to effective and concerted ties on the level of Third World countries against the backdrop of the international situation and as a hindrance to U.S. aggressive policy against the three countries.

SAIRI on Responsibility for Ba'thist Debts

LD191823 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—Iraq's Muslim people are in no way responsible for the Ba'thist regime's huge debts after the regime is toppled, declared the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) here today.

Referring to the latest U.S. financial aid and granting of a one billion dlrs. loan to the Iraqi regime, SAIRI said despite all financial, military and political assistances to Baghdad, Washington has continued to face setbacks.

"The U.S. has come to the region with all its sophisticated arsenal in a bid to protect the Iraqi regime and impose an ignominous peace on both the oppressed nations of Iran and Iraq," it said.

SAIRI also warned Washington against further fanning the flames of war. "U.S. itself will be burnt among the flames," it pointed.

Attempts To Identify Iraqi Mujahidin Foiled

LD191925 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—The Baghdad regime's attempt to identify Iraqi Mujahidin and war deserters, under its so-called public census taking were foiled due to the alertness of the Iraqi people who ignored the directives of the disciplinary forces.

According to reports reaching here from inside Iraq, Muslim people of Baghdad's Salehiyeh quarter thwarted the plot and overlooked the Interior Ministry's request to stay indoors when they staged a demonstration last Saturday morning.

The Interior Ministry had earlier threatened the people to stay indoors from 10 in the morning to 5 in the afternoon. Government forces reportedly attacked the rally in order to preclude its spread to other quarters.

Meanwhile, an explosion was heard near the 'Tqavi' Mosque of Baghdad, however no reports on casualties and losses were immediately available. The reports said similar measures taken by Iraqi people in other parts of Iraq during the curfew hours.

Communique No 2,995 Details Recent Clashes

LD201555 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 11 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Tuesday.

The 2995th Joint Staff Communique said that eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and several enemy gun emplacements and observation posts, some anti-aircraft guns, a number of mortar launchers, a munitions dump and a vehicle were destroyed in a southern theater by Iranian artillery fire Monday.

Three Iraqi patrol convoys, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Qasr-e-Shirin, western sector, were suppressed by the Muslim combatants Monday.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up such barriers as barbed wire fences and embankments in Kani-Sheykh, Cheqa Hammam and Hoseyniyeh in southern fronts Monday, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts Monday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze 10 gun emplacements and a vehicle of theirs, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

President Departs for Thailand 21 Oct

BK210725 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq left Islamabad this morning for Bangkok on a 4-day state visit to Thailand. He is accompanied by Mrs Ziaul Haq. Those present at the airport to see him off included, among others, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Wazir Ahmad Jogezai, federal ministers, ministers of state, parliament members, diplomatic representatives, and senior civil and military officials.

Talking briefly to newsmen at the airport prior to his departure, the president said that his good-will visit to Thailand will further strengthen existing cordial relations between two countries that do not have any political differences. Moreover, they both desire expansion of cooperation in the trade and cultural fields. Pakistan is willing to cooperate with Thailand in industrial and trade fields.

In answer to a question, the president affirmed that Pakistan desires to promote its trade with all countries, including Thailand, and representatives of the chambers of commerce and industry are going with him for talks [words indistinct] in this connection. The president's entourage includes Federal Ministers Ibrahim Baluch and Nisar Mohammad Khan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, two parliament members, and senior officers.

Sri Lanka

Indian Forces Continue Operations at Jaffna

Move To Block Exits

BK201304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, fierce fighting erupted today on the east coast side of Jaffna town as the peacekeeping force maintained its advance into the town. PTI, quoting Army headquarters in New Delhi, says the units of the peacekeeping force resumed their advance from the west (Namipa) access and the eastern Navatkuli sector, despite stiff resistance from the LTTE from their fortified positions. The peacekeeping force has moved further to bridge the 2 and 1/2 km gap in their pincer movement to block the exit from the town to the eastern Jaffna lagoon. The LTTE men were reportedly using their high-caliber weapons, including shoulder firing rockets, medium machine guns, and mortars, in an apparent last ditch battle.

Meanwhile, reports from Colombo say that peacekeeping forces and Sri Lankan security forces were hunting today for an LTTE activist, allegedly a female, responsible for planting a land mine which killed a number of people in eastern Batticaloa District yesterday.

Exit Routes 'Sealed'

BK210650 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the exit routes from Jaffna have been sealed by the peacekeeping force. The escape routes to Jaffna lagoon have also been sealed. The peacekeeping force has firmly established its control on the coastal roads and along the railway lines on the Navatkuli-Jaffna axis. The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in Madras today that the peacekeeping force is advancing slowly and steadily along the Navatkuli-Jaffna axis, the Palaly-Jaffna axis, and Kopay-Jaffna axis. He said the peacekeeping men are taking utmost care to avoid civilian casualties. He categorically stated that there was no damage to property in Jaffna. Because of the peculiar situation, the peacekeeping force had to suffer some casualties in the unprovoked firing by the LTTE. The LTTE men were using heavy-caliber weapons and they are firing from behind the wall of innocent civilians. He said the LTTE shows utter disregard for human lives. The gruesome incident of a mine blast in

Batticaloa yesterday is one more proof of this. The LTTE has also made a second attack on the popular social worker, Mr (Sam Swamimuthu), who has played an important role in protecting the rights of Tamils in the Eastern Province.

The spokesman pointed out that all the Tamil groups, except the LTTE, have handed over their arms and agreed to abide by the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. The LTTE is the only exception and it remains politically isolated. Lieutenant General Deepender Singh today visited Jaffna to review the situation.

The measured and the careful manner in which the peacekeeping operations are conducted has created a safe and secure atmosphere for the civilians. A large number of them are coming out of their homes in these areas. They have been shifted to safer places by the peacekeeping force. Among them are a large number of civilians from the Navatkuli area. All of them are given food by the peacekeeping force. Medical care has also been arranged. Arrangements have also been made to distribute food grains. One of these civilians told Doordarshan that after he left his home, the peacekeeping force has been taking care of all his needs.

The Doordarshan team which visited the area reports that before these people were shifted to safer places they went without food for about 2 weeks. Meanwhile, arrangements are being made to rush supplies of food and medicines to the affected people in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. A vessel, *Island Glory*, is now being loaded at Madras. It is expected to leave Madras port tonight.

During operations against LTTE in Jaffna, several peacekeeping force men were wounded, since they were moving very carefully, anxious to avoid harming civilians. The wounded men have been taken to hospitals in India for treatment. Some of them are receiving treatment in Pune. The wife of Lieutenant General Deepender Singh visited them and enquired about their health.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the reports in a section of the press about some offer by an LTTE official regarding unconditional surrender are misleading. The reports said that a LTTE official sent a note to Indian and Sri Lankan officials reportedly offering to meet the Indian demand of unconditional surrender, and there was no response from India. The spokesman said the agency report appears to be deliberate disinformation spread by the LTTE. The spokesman also clarified that civilian buses are not moved under the orders of the peacekeeping force. This clarification is in reference to reports in a section of the press concerning a civilian bus blown up in the Batticaloa area by the LTTE yesterday. Some people said the bus was being used by the peacekeeping force while another agency report stated that the blast was aimed at a convoy of the peacekeeping force escorting the bus. The spokesman reiterated that the civilian buses are not being moved under the orders of the peacekeeping force.

Indian Army 'Noose' Tightening

BK210444 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 21 Oct 87

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] As the offensive by Indian forces against the Tamil Tigers in northern Sri Lanka continues, the officer commanding the Indian Southern Army has flown to the Jaffna Peninsula to see the situation for himself. The Army is now advancing on five fronts toward the remaining pockets of resistance, as our correspondent Mark Tully reports:

[Begin Tully recording] The noose the Indian Army has thrown around the town of Jaffna is tightening. It seems, therefore, that General Deepender Singh has flown there to review plans for the final assault. The government has once again repeated that there can be no question of accepting cease-fire terms which fall short of what is, in effect, unconditional surrender. In their latest statements, the Tamil Tigers are still demanding that they should retain some of their arms and that there should be negotiations on their political differences with the Indian Government. The Indian Army has now consolidated its positions on the west of Jaffna where soldiers, who had been beleaguered in the Fort, broke out yesterday and joined up with the column which had advanced through the town. By this means the Army has now cut off the Tamil Tigers' access to the Jaffna lagoon. They had been moving in arms and ammunition stored on islands in the lagoon. The Army has also now cut off the major route into Jaffna from the east. It is advancing on three other axes. According to the official spokesman, the Army is appealing to all civilians to leave Jaffna. A ship is sailing for the Indian port of Madras with relief supplies for the refugee centers which have been set up. The Indian official spokesman said the Army had taken what he called a fair amount of casualties during the operation because it hasn't used artillery or aerial bombardment, to save civilian lives. He put the number of soldiers killed at around 100, and injured around 500. That indicates that casualties have not been high in the last 2 days. [end recording].

Indian Troops Reach Kopai South

BK210348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has reached Kopai South and are engaged in flushing-out operations in the area. The force, which reached Jaffna Fort on Monday, mopped up LTTE positions at the town hall, library, new post office, and the clock tower despite stiff resistance. They also inflicted heavy casualties on the LTTE. An intercept of the LTTE last evening said that

they had lost 35 men yesterday and 39 men on Monday in the operations. The Navy has successfully blocked the seaport and sealed all escape routes of the LTTE.

In the Eastern Province, an LTTE militant surrendered to the peacekeeping force in Batticaloa. Train services were resumed between Trincomalee and Mannar sectors. The chief of the Army staff, General Sunderji, and Lieutenant General Deepender Singh reviewed yesterday the situation in Jaffna.

Jaffna Operations Continue

BK210918 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has appealed to the Tamil population in Jaffna to come over to the checkpoints and camps set up by the force, to enable it to provide them basic necessities denied for long by the intransigence of the LTTE. The force urged the Tamil population to break off with the LTTE leadership to prevent further hardships and casualties. The posture of ruthless violence adopted by the LTTE top leaders is only designed to suit their own vested interests. The LTTE is using innocent men, women, and children as shields to minimize their own casualties. Young boys and girls are being treacherously coerced by the LTTE leaders for laying mines and indulging in other actions. The appeal said despite the best efforts of the peacekeeping force, Tamil population is suffering because of the intransigent attitude of the LTTE leaders. The pamphlets containing the appeal was airdropped over Jaffna area and put out through special broadcasts. It categorically said that the presence of the peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka was to ensure an honorable and dignified life for the Tamil population in the island. Its effort is to bring peace and normalcy in the area.

Meanwhile, the peacekeeping force continued its operations throughout the night in and around Jaffna to flush out LTTE men. It recovered huge quantities of ammunition and explosives in raids on a number of houses in Malakand and Manippai areas. On the eastern side of Jaffna town, the peacekeeping force has reached the vicinity of the residential areas in search of the LTTE men. In Jaffna town, hotels and cinema halls which were the strongholds of the LTTE had been captured, and flushing-out operations are in full swing. The commanders of the peacekeeping force, in a swift action, destroyed 14 boats reportedly meant for the LTTE leaders' escape at Gurunagar jetty in the heart of Jaffna town last night.

On all other fronts the action is in progress. The peacekeeping force is making steady gains in spite of heavy fire from the LTTE.

Relief Supplies Sent to Trincomalee Refugees

BK171111 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1032 GMT 17 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 17 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Nine lorry-loads of relief supplies to refugee camps in Trincomalee left Colombo to the port city in eastern Sri Lanka this morning.

A spokesman for the Rehabilitation Ministry told *Lanka Puwath* that the supplies included rice, flour, sugar, dry rations and clothing.

He said that the alleviation of hardship to those affected by the recent violence unleashed by LTTE terrorists was given the highest priority.

The Rehabilitation Ministry spokesman said that there are sufficient stocks in hand and more relief supplies to affected areas would follow.